

Seeing colours differently

About 4% to 8% of the population has colour blindness, the most common of which is red-green colour blindness. Most cases of colour blindness are inherited, and these do not progress with time. There is, however, no cure for inherited colour blindness. In other cases, colour blindness may develop as a secondary effect of macular and optic nerve diseases or as a result of taking certain medications.



Normal vision



Red-green colour blindness

- Difficulty differentiating shades of red, yellow and green
- Caused by the loss or limited function of red cone or green cone photopigments in the retina
- Usually inherited
- Affects 5% of males and less than 0.1% of females



Yellow-blue colour blindness

- Difficulty differentiating shades of blue, green and yellow
- Caused by missing or limited function of blue cone photopigments in the retina
- Usually caused by optic nerve damage or toxicity
- Very rare