Quick Facts About Anisocoria

What Is Anisocoria?

- **Anisocoria** is a medical term for unequal pupil size. Normally our pupils are relatively the same size. While small differences in pupil size are normal and can even come and go (*physiologic anisocoria*), constant and significant differences in pupil sizes may be a sign of damage to the nerves or brain.

**How Can Anisocoria Affect Me?**

- **Anisocoria cannot make you go blind.** Some people notice some blurry vision and/or light sensitivity.
- **Anisocoria should not be ignored. It can be a sign of a serious neurological problem.**
- There are two potentially serious conditions that can cause anisocoria: **Horner syndrome** and **3rd cranial nerve palsy**.
- **Horner syndrome occurs** when one of the nerves does not work. The pupil on the affected side is abnormally small and the upper eyelid may droop. Because this nerve passes near many important structures, Horner syndrome can be a sign of a serious condition like a damaged blood vessel, a stroke or tumor.
- **3rd cranial nerve palsy** is dysfunction of another nerve. The affected pupil is abnormally large and is associated with a droopy eyelid and double vision. 3rd cranial nerve palsy is important because it can be due to a serious medical condition like a stroke or aneurysm.

What Should I Do About Anisocoria?

- A **neuro-ophthalmologist** checks your pupils, eyelids, and eye movements.
- If there is any concerning features a scan such as MRI can be obtained to investigate further.

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