



## Welcome to Katzen Eye Group's Ocular Dryness and Discomfort Program

*The Ocular Dryness and Discomfort Program allows our doctors to customize diagnostic and treatment strategies to address the specific and unique needs of patients suffering from eye discomfort and/or dryness.*

After a careful assessment of your symptoms and ocular findings, your doctor has determined that your medical condition can be best managed by **enrolling you in an ophthalmic program targeted specifically toward your ocular needs**. The Ocular Dryness and Discomfort Program allows our doctors to customize diagnostic and treatment strategies to address the specific and unique needs of patients suffering from eye discomfort and/or dryness. Enrollment in this program permits a careful and thorough assessment of the causes of your condition, as well as access to the latest technology and treatment strategies designed specifically for your needs.

### Dryness and Discomfort

- Do your eyes ever feel tired?
- Do they ever feel heavy or strained, especially after reading or using a computer?
- Does your vision ever seem blurry, even while wearing your glasses or contacts?

If so, you may be suffering from a common ophthalmic condition known as Dry Eye Syndrome. With over **80 million Americans suffering from dry eye** conditions, the proper identification and treatment of this syndrome has become an increasingly essential part of ophthalmic care. Unfortunately, many sufferers of eye discomfort and dryness never realize that their symptoms are part of an identifiable and treatable condition. Even those who are aware of their dry eye condition may not fully appreciate the complexity of dry eye disease and the need for a customized approach to its management.

### Customizing a Treatment Plan for You

As a member of **Katzen Eye Group's Ocular Dryness and Discomfort Program**, you will initially be screened using a carefully designed assessment protocol. This assessment will include customized measurements of your visual needs, a detailed analysis of the quantity and quality of your tear film, and precise imaging studies of your ocular surface. Using

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these technologies together with advanced clinical exam methodology, we will be able to identify specific areas of the eye responsible for your symptoms and direct our treatment accordingly. Your progress will be recorded through ocular photography, and after each visit you will receive a detailed report providing a concise and understandable way to monitor your progress.

## Laser Treatment for Dry Eyes

In some cases, conventional treatments such as eye drops are not enough. At Katzen Eye Group, we are proud to be the only ophthalmic practice in the Mid-Atlantic region offering laser treatment for dry eyes by utilizing the Palomar laser system. This advanced technology uses **natural broad-band light to open up blocked glands responsible for dry eyes to reduce the influx of inflammatory chemicals** that lead to unhealthy tears and eye discomfort. This system, which has an established record of safety and success, has been used extensively for years to treat similar processes on other areas of the face. There is no required down-time after this light treatment, and patients may resume their normal activities immediately following therapy.

**Four to six sessions** may be required, however, many patients will experience results soon after initiating treatment. While most insurance companies currently do not cover the treatment, physicians that have used this laser have found the therapy to be extremely effective. We expect 80% of our patients to experience a reduced dependency on drops following the completion of treatment. Your doctor will evaluate whether you are an appropriate candidate for this exciting innovation in dry eye management.

## We're Here for You

Enrollment in the Ocular Dryness and Discomfort Program ensures you access to our participating doctors. While many cases of dry eye can be managed through widely spaced treatment intervals, your condition may require more frequent visits. In the event you require an unscheduled visit, we will accommodate your needs, whenever possible, by arranging for you to be seen that day. Your progress will be carefully reported to your referring eye professional, as well as to your primary care physician to maintain the continuous and collaborative care required of a successful medical treatment program.