

Measuring PD

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Who Takes The Measurements?

- ◆ In some states there are restrictions, and in some practices there are preferences on who takes the various measurements for dispensing of spectacles.

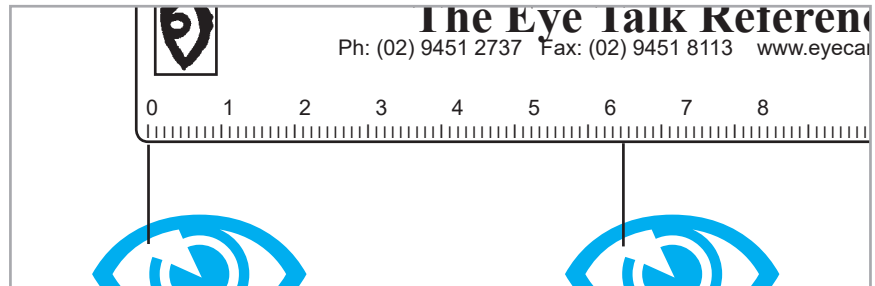


Diagram representing the PD measurement technique. The result is 62 in this example.

What is the PD?

- ◆ PD stands for “Interpupillary Distance”.
- ◆ This is the distance between the centres of the pupils of the 2 eyes.
- ◆ PD is different for distance and near (due to convergence of the eyes for near).

Why PD is Important

- ◆ The distance between the optical centres of the lenses has to be the same as the distance between the pupils (the PD).

How to Measure PD

- ◆ Can be measured with a simple PD rule:
 - Too hard to line up with the centre of the pupil, so we measure from the edge of the corneas instead (or where the coloured iris meets the white sclera).
- ◆ Optometrists & dispensers have favourite techniques to measure PD. These are 3 of the most

common methods:

- With an instrument called a pupillometer. Many users feel more confident with this instrument, but mistakes can still be made and technique is still important.
- PD rule for distance PD (& then calculate near)
 - Requires observer to close alternate eyes, which is difficult for many people.
 - This method will be subject to error due to parallax when the observers own PD is significantly wider or narrower than the patient’s PD.
- PD rule for near PD (& then calculate distance)
 - Hold PD Rule with zero mark (0mm) bottom left.
 - Rest your hand against the patient’s forehead.
 - Close one of your eyes.
 - Ask the patient to look at your open eye
 - Line up the zero mark with the

edge of cornea & measure to the same position on the other eye.

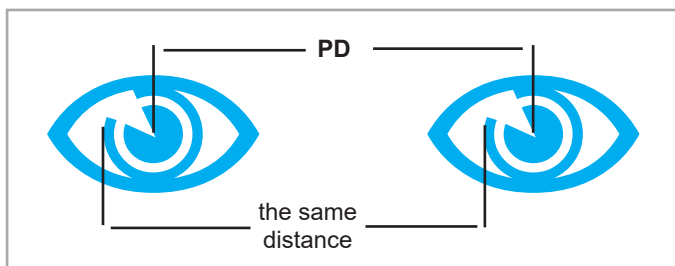
- This is the Near PD.

Distance & Near PD

- ◆ Near PD measured as described
- ◆ Distance PD - Add an average of 3mm
 - For PD in the 50’s add 2, in the 60’s add 3, in the 70’s add 4.

Recording the PD

- ◆ The convention is to record the PD as distance first, then near.
 - examples:
 - 65/62** is 65 for distance, 62 for near
 - /62** is 62 for near



The PD is the distance between the pupil centres

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 This is an excerpt from *The Optometry Team*, written by optometrist Dr Tony Hanks - now in its' 4th edition.
 The book is available on-line from www.hanksresources.com