Thyroid eye disease causes inflammation of the soft tissues in the eye socket, resulting in a variety of symptoms. Not all patients will progress to a moderate or severe stage.

**Muscles**

- Normal muscle fibers
- Inflammation
- Muscles swell. Because there is limited space in the eye socket, the increased muscle volume pushes the eyeball forward.
- Fibrosis
- Muscles scar and stiffen. Follows inflammation and can cause restricted movement of the eye.

**Vision**

Double vision can be caused by tightening of the muscles (due to inflammation/fibrosis).

Other changes in vision may occur if the large nerve (optic nerve) connecting the eye to the brain becomes compressed or the cornea is damaged.

Vision loss is rare but can occur; monitoring is important for early intervention.

- Excessive tearing caused by dry eye
- "startled appearance"
- Difficulty closing eyelid
- Redness
- Swelling
- Increased pain and pressure behind the eye
- Inability to fully close eyelids
- Forward bulge
- Worsened swelling of conjunctiva and surrounding tissue
- Cornea ulceration

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[Link to website: wwww.hopkinsmedicine.org/wilmer/services/thyroid_eye_disease]