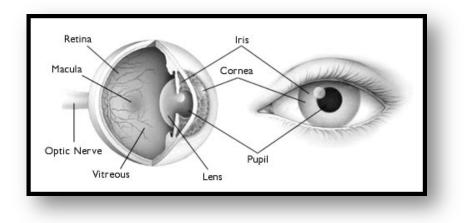
RETINA SURGERY Tom H Williamson MD MBChB, FRCS (Glas), FRCOphth

Anatomy of the Eye



The eye is like a biological digital camera with a lens apparatus at the front (the cornea and lens) and an image processing unit at the back (the retina) which sends images to the brain via the electrical wiring (the optic nerve). The pupil and iris act as the lens aperture. The most common problem to affect the lens apparatus is cataract (clouding of the lens). Many problems can inflict the image processor (retina) including retinal detachment. The eye is spherical in shape and therefore must have a pressure greater than atmospheric pressure to stay 'inflated'. Uncontrolled pressure can cause glaucoma. In the middle of the sphere is a cavity filled with a clear jelly (the vitreous). Ageing of the vitreous causes many of the problems encountered in the retina including macular holes and pucker.

