

The truth and value behind compensated lenses

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Compensated lenses, especially [progressive addition lenses \(PALs\)](#), are commonplace in today's optical marketplace and are often promoted as a best visual solution. However, because of the large misunderstanding of what a compensated prescription is, eye care providers struggle to confidently explain how this benefit is a value to the patient.

The compensation misconception

ECPs often believe that spectacle lens compensation is a change or modification of the lens prescription that was originally determined by the refraction. This can create hesitancy, a complete lack of use, and a diminished trust that the lens contains the proper prescription.

The why behind compensation

The refraction process does not perfectly replicate what the wearer will experience when they try on their new glasses for the first time. That's why compensation is so important. It neutralizes the many little differences that take place from the time of measurement to the try-on.

The differences in positioning have an impact

Altering the position of a lens will change the effective power, or the perceived power, of that lens. And, the extra area of the larger lens will provide more room for lens induced aberrations. Even when a frame is properly fit on a patient's face, that frame will place the lenses in a different position as compared to the position of the lenses during the refraction. These are just a few things that happen in positioning that can impact the end result.

Compensate wherever possible

The answer here is to use a compensated lens whenever possible. The processing lab understands that there is a difference between the position and size of the lenses during the refraction process, and the position and size of the spectacle lenses placed within the finished product. The lab will then perform prescription compensation to ensure that the change in position and size of the lens does not negatively affect the visual performance or comfort of the lens.

