

SCLERAL LENS NOMENCLATURE  
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After considering input from a number of sources, the Scleral Lens Education Society (SLS) recommends internationally recognized nomenclature for describing scleral lenses according to size and fit characteristics. This task is difficult due to the large number of naming schemes by individuals, manufacturers, and distributors. The goals are to simplify and generalize the nomenclature.

According to the SLS recommendations, the bearing of the lens is the defining feature in scleral lens terminology. Simply put, if a lens rests completely on the cornea, it is called a **corneal lens**. A lens that partly rests on the cornea (centrally or peripherally), and partly on the sclera is called a **corneo-scleral lens**. A lens that rests entirely on the sclera, is a **scleral lens** no matter how large that lens is. The Scleral Lens Education Society advises against using diameter classification in scleral lens nomenclature, to avoid confusion (for instance in cases of extremely large or small eyes).

Lens designs that are classified as corneo-scleral by diameter, sometimes rest entirely on the sclera. In the recommended nomenclature, these are referred to as “scleral lenses” even though they have relatively small diameters.

When there is full bearing on the sclera, further distinctions of the scleral lens group include **mini-scleral** and **large-scleral** lenses. These distinctions emphasize differences in central corneal clearance and other fitting characteristics. As an example, a lens that is 6mm larger than the visible iris diameter (e.g. has up to 3mm of bearing on the sclera on each side of the lens) is classified as a mini-scleral lens. A lens that is more than 6mm larger than the visible iris diameter is classified as a large-scleral lens. An 18 mm lens that bears exclusively on the sclera is a mini-scleral lens on an eye with a corneal diameter of 12mm. A lens larger than 18mm for the same eye is a large-scleral lens. The Table below illustrates the recommended nomenclature from the Scleral Lens Education Society.

Lens Type	Description	Definition of Bearing Area
Corneal		Lens rests entirely on the cornea
Corneo-scleral		Lens rests partly on the cornea, partly on the sclera
Scleral	Mini-Scleral <i>Lens is up to 6mm larger than HVID</i>	Lens rests entirely on the sclera
	Large Scleral <i>Lens is more than 6mm larger than HVID</i>	