Ophthalmologist jobs are undergoing a lot of changes due to dynamic health care industry. Due to ever-changing medical and surgical procedures, as an ophthalmologist, a comprehensive residency clinical training program that introduces you to these advancements is necessary during your post graduation period. As an ophthalmologist, you may have to keep yourself updated with the latest diagnostic tools and treatment procedures so that you can advance your career successfully. Basic tasks of an ophthalmologist include diagnosis and treatment of wide range of eye problems and vision deficiencies like dryness, eye strain, myopia, cataracts, injuries, diabetic retinopathy, and glaucoma among others.

Let us look at what can a postgraduate in Ophthalmology do after he or she finishes the course and the pros and cons of each of them.

- Join your medical college as a junior doctor/senior resident
- Get a Government job as Ophthalmologist
- Subspecialty training in a reputed eye center
- Fellowship or job in another country
- Start an eye hospital
- Join a small private set up with private practice
- Join a corporate set up
- Charitable eye hospitals
- Spectacle shop
- Relax and enjoy life

Join your medical college as a junior doctor/senior resident—Fulfill the teacher within you.

After the implementation of the residency program, all medical colleges have the provision to take senior residents. Senior residents had been a hitherto unknown post in Kerala. Senior residency gives you the leverage of working in a medical college set up immediately following the MS. This gives you adequate exposure, teaching experience and cutting chances. Joining the same college where you studied will give you better freedom and exposure as you know the set up and faculty quite well. Those people who want to join medical college service should find this a very useful time. In North India, all Assistant Professors have to go through senior residency. This ensures that by the time, one is an Assistant professor, he or she is mature enough as a complete Ophthalmologist.

Get a Government job as Ophthalmologist—Enter the sphere of service.

In the district hospitals and Thaluk hospitals, Ophthalmology is well developed and you can push your way forward in service as you can use Government funds to keep on improving your facilities. Truly, it is a very satisfying job as the numbers can keep on increasing and the needy can be helped significantly. But the con side is that unless you push, things may not work at all. Here your hard work is the key. Your organizational capacity will be under question. This decides the performance of each unit. Almost all basic and intermediate procedures can be done at this level. Overall if you apply what you have learnt, a lot of patients can get benefitted by your job.

Subspecialty training in a reputed center—Follow your mind’s passion till the end.

Due to the crunch in the eye surgeon workforce, there will be an increasing demand for eye surgeons under 55 years of age. But being a successful ophthalmologist depends on your expertise in this field. There is a comprehensive subspecialty training program available for ophthalmologists. Completion of subspecialty trainings will help you get favorable job offers and also to acquire special skills. Subspecialty completion will also give you a chance to practice as a consultant in various hospitals. Fellowship training programs are available in cornea, retina, glaucoma, ophthalmoplasty, pediatric ophthalmology or cataract. Many of these programs admit people after an entrance exam or interview. The program may be of 1-3 years duration. The more you work in a specialty, the better equipped you become in that subspecialty. There is no rule that there is a need of subspecialisation for success. But it will give you expertise in one particular area, which may be beneficial in job placement in urban areas. How ever one should understand that the more specialized, an individual becomes the potential job opportunities come down. He has select places to join. But the good thing is that such places are increasing in numbers even in the peripheries.

Fellowship or job in another country—Change your lifestyle.

Getting an Ophthalmology residency program or fellowship is US, UK and such similar places are more difficult than other specialties. But if you try for it, you may get it, the only problem being that you have to compromise for the subspecialty or place. You may have to do about 5-7 years of training in different places to be actually able to practice
Ophthalmology in these places. Middle East countries offer jobs, but the difference in pay between those areas and India have decreased over the last 10 years. Moving to a developed country will change your lifestyle for sure, but it is a more difficult thing to do in Ophthalmology than many medical specialties. If research is in the back of your mind, especially basic science research, then this is a very good option.

Starting an eye hospital - Smart way to make you your boss..

If one has the capital, support and aptitude to start an eye hospital, it is simpler than most other specialties. There is no mortality or morbidity in the eye patients; there are no ICU or other critical problems. One can easily finish and close the gates of the hospital after dark and the emergencies are very few. You can be your own master and you can decide the pace of your work. Your earning will be parallel to the work output. However, newer policies regarding work may work adversely to small time practices and facilities in the recent future. In critical economic reviews, this is the step that is advised by the masters to have the best growth over a long term. Like all good things in life, this too comes with a cost. You have to struggle to make it grow.

Join a small private set up with private practice - A good compromise..

If starting your own eye hospital is very difficult due to some reason, but your mind is bent on starting one sooner or later, then this is the best compromise. You start your own practice and the major procedures can be done in a nearby small private set up. Both parties benefit as the small private hospital will start a new specialty and you will get a place to do your procedures. However, the individual versus institution clash will develop sooner than later and one should always be ready with a plan B. The investment on equipments could be joint, with the hospital which will help you better if you move out.

Join a corporate set up - Easy way out..

Corporate eye hospitals and eye hospital chains are opening in more and more places. Joining such a place will pay you for only 2-3 hours. The pay is good, but your job satisfaction may not be there. There is a lot of flexibility and for people who want a lot of free time, this is a good option. Professional growth is difficult, but that is understandable. Personal time is attained sacrificing professional growth, but without compromising much on economy.

Influencing Factors

Factors that have made an ophthalmologist's career highly sought after are - earning potential, mentorship and flexibility. There is also the lifestyle convenience of working in an urban setting. Ophthalmologist jobs have the ability to appeal to you most, as there is a dual satisfaction of medical and surgical treatment in this career. But to thrive in this career, you must possess an ambition in keeping yourself updated with latest medical procedures. Further influencing factors on deciding the subspecialty or type of work depends on one's personality. Each type of personality is designed for happiness in a particular work model. The key is to find out what gives you happiness, the most.