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'Describing Vision: Galen's Texts on Eye Anatomy and their Terminology'

In his medical writings, Galen described the anatomy of the eye at least twice, in the treatises *On the usefulness of the parts* and in his *Anatomical procedures*. These accounts are extremely detailed. The former describes the workings of the human eye from a teleological perspective, stating anatomical findings as facts, the latter describes each and every single step of the dissection, which also included experiments on live animals. The first part of the paper focuses on the terminology used to describe structures that should not be there according to the physiological and neurological concept of vision found in Galen's writings. For instance, very similar looking structures could be described as either liquids or tunics, depending on their supposed function. The anatomical experiments, which mainly consisted of cutting through nerves or other structures to observe the resulting loss of function, will also be discussed.

The second part of the paper will examine the history of these passages. Other than most anatomical descriptions, these passages were - directly or indirectly - incorporated into therapeutic works, and separate treatises on the eye in Greek and Arabic language. The latter will be of particular interest, as they reflect attempts to systematize and explain the concepts behind the anatomical terminology.