

**Figure 2-3a.** Grip on retinoscope when using thumb to manipulate sleeve.



**Figure 2-3b.** Grip on retinoscope when using forefinger to manipulate sleeve.



A special filament in the bulb of the streak retinoscope creates the linear beam of light that is emitted. Most bulbs have a filament that is coiled, producing a diffuse light source. The filament in the streak retinoscope's bulb is straight. Hence, the streak of light is actually a projection of the bulb's filament. It is usually possible to convert a streak retinoscope to a spot retinoscope by changing the bulb.

**OphA**

Most retinoscopes sold today operate on a battery that is contained within the handle. These are preferred by most retinoscopists due to the convenience afforded. Some retinoscopes must be plugged into an instrument stand while others can be plugged into a wall receptacle. The power supply only affects the portability of the instrument and the longevity of the available power.

**OptT**

## Basic Principles

**OphT**

One of the most important aspects of retinoscopy is holding the instrument properly. For convenience and efficiency, a one-handed method for holding the retinoscope must be used. It should be held so that the hand holding the retinoscope can also rotate the sleeve and slide it up and down (Figures 2-3a and 2-3b). Some retinoscopists use their thumb to manipulate the sleeve, while others prefer their forefinger. Develop a style that is most comfortable for you.