



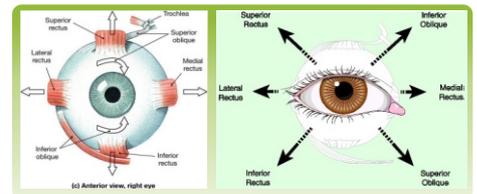
## SQUINT (Strabismus)

### What is Strabismus?

Strabismus is the medical term for squint, a condition where the eyes point in different directions. One eye may turn inwards, outwards, upwards or downwards while the other eye looks straight. Squint can occur at any age. Squint are common and affect about one in 20 children.

### What causes Squint?

- The exact cause is not really known.
- Movement of each eye is controlled by the six muscles. A loss of coordination between the muscles of the two eyes leads to the squint.
- Aquired squint may be caused by the eye attempting to overcome a vision problem such as shortsightedness or long sightedness.
- Genetic factor play a part in many squint.



### How Squint affect vision?

- When eyes are not aligned they are focusing on different objects, child would ignore the image from the deviated eye.
- The vision in the deviated eye gradually deteriorates because the brain ignores the weaker image and results in deviation of lazy eye.
- A lazy eye can be treated by patching of the better eye until about six or seven years of age but it is important that it is treated as soon as possible.
- An adult cannot ignore the image and therefore has double vision and develop abnormal head posture.

### Types of Squint?



Inward deviation



Outward deviation



Vertical deviation

### Constant deviation:

If deviation persists all the time.

### Intermittent deviation:

If squint appears at certain times they are known as intermittent.

### Treatment

Squint in children need to be assessed as soon as possible to ensure the vision is protected and to improve the chances of successful treatment.

### Glasses

- Glasses can sometimes reduce or completely eliminate the squint.
- Glasses should be worn at all the times to help straighten the eyes.





## Patching

Patching of the good eye improves the vision in lazy eye.

## Prismatic Correction/Fresnel Prism

It is used to relieve diplopia.

## Surgery

- Squint surgery is very common eye operation, it involves tightening or weakening of the muscles to change the eye position by applying absorbable sutures.
- In Young children, surgery develop the coordination of the two eyes to work together for 3D vision (depth).
- Corrective surgery is undertaken to improve the appearance of the eyes, correct double vision and abnormal head posture.
- Surgery is nearly always a day case procedure.
- There are two kinds of squint operation.
  - a) Adjustable
  - b) Non-adjustable
- Adjustable Surgery.
- It can be performed in older children and adults. Stitches can be adjusted shortly after the surgery when the patient is awake.



## Complications

- Complications of surgery are rare.
- Sometimes more than one operation will be needed to correct the squint fully.

## Recovery from Surgery

- It can take several weeks to fully recover from corrective squint surgery.
- During this time the eye may feel painful or itchy for a short time and you may have temporary double vision.

## Prognosis-Future outcome

- Squint surgery straightness the eye.
- Sometimes after operation the eyes are not perfectly straight.
- It is possible that after several years of successful surgery the squint may gradually return again.
- A further operation is an option to restraighten the eyes.

## Facts about Squint

- Squint examination is possible in all children.
- Treatment should be started as soon as possible to ensure the development of the best possible visual acuity and stereopsis.
- Early treatment of strabismus in infancy may reduce the chance of developing amblyopia and depth perception problems.