

Your child's squint (turn in the eye)

Ophthalmology Department

Information for Parents

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What is a squint?

A squint is when one eye is not pointing in the same direction as the other one. The eye may turn in any direction, but most often turns inwards (towards the nose), or outwards (towards the ear). This can happen all of the time, or it may come and go.

What causes a squint?

There are lots of reasons why a squint may develop. Sometimes it is because a child needs glasses. In other cases there may be a history of squints in the family. There is often no obvious cause.

What is the treatment for a squint?

There are many different treatments for squints. Sometimes glasses can make the eyes straighter, or even completely straight. Some children may need an operation to straighten the eyes. A squint may also affect the vision, in which case patching treatment may be needed. If your child has a squint, they are likely to have hospital appointments for some time, possibly up to the age of 6 or 7.

Will the squint get better on its own?

A squint will not usually go away on its own, although in some cases it may become less noticeable as your child gets older.

**Health information and support is available at www.nhs.uk
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

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To give feedback about this information sheet, contact InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

What is a pseudo squint?

A pseudo squint is when a child's eyes appear as though they are not straight when really they are. This is usually because young children tend to have quite a broad, flat bridge of the nose. This means that when the child looks to one side (even if only very slightly) the white of the eye can disappear under this wide bridge and give the appearance that the eye has turned inwards. It is often more noticeable on photographs, or if the child is looking to one side. As the eyes are actually straight no treatment is needed, and children usually grow out of it as their face develops.

Questions

If you have any other questions about your child's eye condition, or about squints, just ask your eye specialist when you visit the hospital.

Important

Please let us know if you cannot keep your appointment. If you do not attend an appointment Trust policy is that you should be discharged.

Contact details

Orthoptic Department, Leicester Royal Infirmary

Tel: 0116 258 5277

Further information

For more information about squints, or to find out more about what an orthoptist does, please have a look at the British and Irish Orthoptic society website: www.orthoptics.org.uk

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔
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