

What is a squint?

A squint occurs when an eye turns and stops working with the other eye. Most commonly the eye may turn towards the nose or turn out outwards and more rarely up or down.

What causes a squint?

In some cases the squint is caused by long-sightedness and the child needs glasses. The strain made by the child to see without the glasses causes the eye to turn in. In other cases there may be no obvious reason but there is often a history of glasses and/or squint in the family.

Will my child grow out of a squint?

No, although some squints improve as the child gets older.

Will my child need treatment?

Yes, if you wish for your child to undergo treatment.

There are two aims for treatment:

1. To improve the child's vision. Glasses will help some children. If the vision in the squinting eye is poor, patching of the good eye may be necessary.
2. To improve the squint. Glasses may help some children. Surgery may be required to correct some squints.

Some children do not need glasses.

Are all squints treated the same?

No, there are many different types of squints and therefore many types of treatment.

Who will treat my child's eyes?

There may be a few people of differing specialties looking after your child's eyes.

- The Consultant Ophthalmologist has overall responsibility for your child's general eye care.
- The Orthoptist works closely with the Ophthalmologist and is a specialist in the treatment of squints and children's eye development.
- The Optician/Optomtrist will test for glasses and advise you when changes are needed. Your child will usually have a test once a year or more frequently if necessary.

How long does treatment take?

This varies from patient to patient. The only general rule is that with a squint a better result is easier to achieve if treatment is started at an early age. Most children remain under hospital care until about 7 years old.

How do I find out about my child's eye condition?

Ask any of the eye care professionals dealing with your child's eyes. Every case is different and with your child's record to hand, it is easier to answer any specific questions you may have.

Contact Information

For more information please contact the:

Orthoptic Department,
Main building,
UHNM,
Newcastle Road,
Stoke-on-Trent
ST4 6QG
Telephone: 01782 674333

We are a teaching hospital with students being taught here. We will ask if you mind them observing your consultation. If you do not wish them to be present, your treatment will not be affected in any way.

Further Information

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service would be pleased to offer confidential advice and support if you have any concerns. PALS can be contacted on 01782 676455 or Email patient.advice@uhns.nhs.uk

