

## Is this associated with other health problems?

Depending on the severity of the droopy lid, there can be some reduced vision in that eye if the eyelid is covering the pupil.

There is no increased need for glasses/squint (turn in the eyes) in these children compared to other children.

## Contact Details and further information

**Eye Unit / Orthoptic Department**

**Tel: 01782 676001**

[www.uhnm.nhs.uk/our-services/orthoaptics](http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/our-services/orthoaptics)

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## Patient Information Leaflet

# Marcus Gunn Jaw-Winking Syndrome



Please speak to a member of staff if you need this leaflet in large print, braille, audio or another language

## Introduction

This leaflet provides you with information on **Marcus Gunn Jaw-Winking Syndrome**.

It is not meant to replace the discussion between you and your Doctor/Healthcare Professional but may act as a starting point for discussion.

If after reading it you have any concerns or require further explanation, please discuss this with a member of the Healthcare Team who has been caring for you.

## What is Marcus Gunn Jaw-Winking Syndrome?

This is a condition affecting one eye, where the eyelid lifts when the jaw is moved from side to side.

It is usually noticed when sucking or chewing, but can sometimes be seen just by opening and closing the mouth.

There can be an associated droopy upper eyelid (ptosis) when there is no movement of the jaw. This varies in the amount of droopiness that is noticed.

## What causes Marcus Gunn Jaw-Winking Syndrome?

The nerves that control the eyelid muscles and jaw muscles are not connected properly.

There is a mis-wiring of the nerves which results in an abnormal connection causing them to move together.

It is congenital – your child is born with this condition.

## Is there any treatment?

There are no treatment options for this condition as it is not possible to re-wire the nerves and connections that have formed abnormally.

It does not normally affect their daily lives and often becomes a “party-trick” as they get older.

Treatment can be offered for associated problems.

If there is reduced vision in one eye, patching treatment/eye drops may be used to try and improve the vision.

If there is a significant droopy eyelid, then surgery can sometimes be offered to lift the lid.

## What will I notice?

You may notice in one eye, the upper eyelid flicker open and closed when your child is eating/drinking/smiling.

It can look like your child is repeatedly winking.

It is often most noticeable when babies are feeding; however it can go unnoticed until your child is slightly older.