

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.

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

Ask any of the eye care professionals dealing with your child's eye condition.

Every case is different and with your child's record to hand, it is easier to answer any specific questions you may have.

Contact Details

Eye Unit

Tel: 01782 676001

Orthoptic Department option 5
Emergency Eye Department option 1

Eye Condition Patient Information Leaflet

Squints



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 Squints.

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 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 and more rarely up or down

What causes a squint?

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

How is a Squint treated?

There are treatments to improve the child's vision:

- Glasses.** This will improve some types of squint.
- Surgery.** This may be required to improve some squints.

If the vision in the squinting eye is poor, temporary patching of the good eye may be necessary. This will help to improve the vision.

Will my child grow out of a squint?

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

Who will treat my child's eyes?

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