

Strabismus

Information for parents from
the 3V2 Eye Clinic

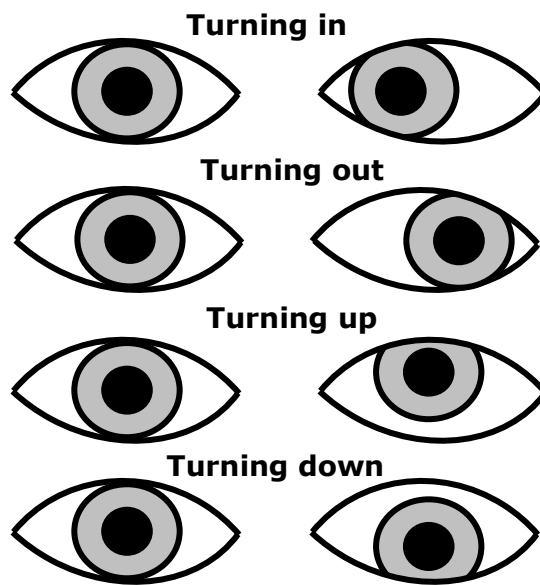
When your child's eyes are not straight,
treatment may improve his or her vision.

What is strabismus?

Strabismus (said like “struh-biz-muss”) is the medical term for misalignment of the eyes. It simply means that one or both eyes are not straight.

There are many types of strabismus, depending on whether the eye turns in, out, up, or down.

These drawings show different types of strabismus in the left eye.



When both eyes are affected, they may be turned in different directions.

How does this affect my child's vision?

If **one** of your child's eyes is always turned, his or her brain will always receive blurry images from that eye. If this goes on for some time, the brain will ignore the images and "switch off" the turned eye. This prevents vision from developing normally in that eye.

If **one** of your child's eyes is sometimes turned, what matters most is how often it is straight. If it is straight most of the time, the brain will receive clear images most of the time and vision will develop normally. However, if the eye is turned most of the time, vision in that eye will not develop normally.

If **both** your child's eyes are sometimes turned, they do not turn at the same time. What matters most is how often each eye is straight. If the left eye is straight as often as the right, the brain is using both eyes equally and vision will develop normally.

How is strabismus treated?

The eye doctor will check the position of your child's eyes and decide what treatment is best for your child.

Your child may benefit from:

- wearing an eye patch,
- wearing glasses, or
- having eye surgery.

Wearing an eye patch

If one eye is turned all or most of the time, your child will wear an eye patch on the other eye for 2 to 6 hours a day.

Patching does not correct the misalignment. Patching forces the brain to use the images from the turned eye. This helps develop the vision centres in the brain dealing with that eye. Over time, vision will improve.

Wearing glasses

- ✓ Some children benefit from wearing glasses:
- ✓ Glasses for far-sightedness can help correct eyes that turn in.
- ✓ Glasses for near-sightedness can help reduce out-turning of the eyes.

Glasses can only correct vision problems while they are worn. When the glasses are taken off, the eyes will turn again.

Surgery

Surgery on the eye muscles can reduce strabismus. It may not totally 'straighten' the eye(s), but it will reduce the amount of turning.

Your child will need a general anesthetic for eye surgery. This is a medication that makes your child go to sleep. Your child will not feel any discomfort or be aware of what happens during the surgery.

After surgery, your child may still need glasses or patching.

With time, the eye(s) may turn again and your child may need more surgery.

We will give you more information about the treatment recommended for your child.

**If you have questions or concerns please call the
3V2 Eye Clinic at
905-521-2100, ext 72400.**

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