

Why the glasses have not helped the strabismus

Again, all squints are different. Your eye care specialist will let you know what type of strabismus you have and why it will be likely/unlikely that a pair of glasses will fix the turn in the eye.

Glasses will either:

- Completely remove the squint
- Partially remove the squint
- Have no impact on the squint at all

Surgery

Surgery is normally recommended as a last resort or where it is in your child's best interest.

If you have been recommended surgery, or you have decided that you would like to have surgery, the eye specialist will refer you to the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital.

You will be offered an appointment where they will do some repeat measurements and organise a surgery date.

Once the surgery has been completed you will come back to this clinic where we will review the outcome.

The type of surgery will depend on the type of strabismus.



Why Does My Child Have a Squint?

We are always happy to provide as much information as possible to help you understand. Please get in touch with the eye clinic if you have any queries.

All Telephone Enquiries: 01 4916469

Causes of a Squint

There can be many reasons why your child has a squint (strabismus), some of the most common reasons are listed below:

1. **Glasses.** If glasses are required, sometimes a child will over compensate for their absence and this may cause the eye to turn in. The absence of glasses may also result in reduced vision which may then cause the eye to turn.
2. **Congenital.** At times children are born with the potential of a turn in the eye, this is something that is very hard to prevent. Therefore, the clinic will monitor all visual development to ensure the vision develops as normal.
3. **Loss of control.** Majority of the population have a tendency for our eyes to drift in or out. This is usually managed subconsciously by our brains. If the drift is too much for the brain to handle, the eye will drift out/in.

Management Options for Strabismus

There are many different ways we can manage a squint, but please remember that they are all different. What you may have heard worked for one person may not be the appropriate way to manage another.

Some of the methods we use to manage a strabismus are listed below:

- Glasses
- Exercises
- Prisms
- Surgery
- Monitoring

Regardless of what kind of strabismus is present, all patients will be assessed with a glasses and fundus (back of the eye) check. This ensures that there is not an underlying need for glasses or that there are any health issues causing the turn.

Why you were not recommended a patch

There is a lot of confusion surrounding the need for patching when a squint is present.

A patch is only used when someone has amblyopia (reduced vision in one eye). The patch will be used to cover the good eye so that the vision can develop in the weaker eye.

The patch is not used to improve the squint and therefore, this is why you may not see a change in the squint despite having patched.