

## Important points regarding patching

- \* Patching has to be done every day & not in breaks.
- \* Child should be asked to do some visual activity with the uncovered eye .No use of patching when child is sleeping.
- \* If spectacles are prescribed, then they have to be worn over the patch.
- \* If irritation/allergy develops to the patch material, change over to different material.
- \* Patching has to be continued till vision becomes equal in both eyes. It may take months to achieve that.
- \* Patching is most effective if started before 8 yrs of age. Earlier the treatment started faster is the visual recovery.



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## What is amblyopia?

Amblyopia is a medical term for poor vision in one or both the eyes that did not develop normal vision in early childhood. The eye looks perfectly normal from outside as well as inside.

## How does amblyopia develop?

The neuronal network in the brain which is concerned with vision is constantly developing till 7-8 yrs of age. If during this period the brain does not receive clear images from one of the eyes, then it starts neglecting the images from that eye & prefers the good eye. If no intervention is done at this time then it leads to permanent loss of vision resulting in amblyopia or lazy eye.

## What causes amblyopia?

- \* Refractive errors - Short sightedness (Myopia), Long sightedness (Hypermetropia), Astigmatism or large difference in refractive power of two eyes (Anisometropia).
- \* Squint in one of the eyes.
- \* Any cause which obstructs vision in the eye like Cataract, Droopy lids (Ptosis), Corneal Scars etc.

## What are the effects of amblyopia?

- \* Vision in one or both eye remains permanently less if amblyopia is not treated at the right time.
- \* Severe degree of amblyopia can lead to the failure of development of binocular vision.
- \* Can be disqualification in profession which requires perfect vision like navy, pilots, train drivers etc.

## How is the amblyopia treated?

Amblyopia treatment is successful only if it is started within 8 yrs of life. Earlier the treatment started, the better is the outcome. 2 methods of treatment are available:

1. Patching (more preferred modality)



An opaque adhesive patch is worn over the good eye for few hours every day depending upon the severity of amblyopia. This forces the brain to use the lazy eye for seeing so that it gets chance to develop normal vision.

2. Atropine eye drops - These eye drops are instilled in the good eye so as to temporarily blur the vision in that eye.