

Myths & facts about squints -

* Myth - Children born with squint are considered to be lucky.

Fact: Children born with squint are in fact unlucky because they do not develop binocular vision (ability to see with both eyes) and need to be treated earlier.

* Myth - There is no treatment available for squint.

Fact: - Almost all types of squint can be corrected - either with glasses or by surgery.

* Myth - Children will outgrow squint.

Fact: A child with a true squint will never outgrow it.

* Myth - Squint Surgery is to be done only when the child grows older
Fact: Earlier the surgery done, better are the chances for the eyes to align themselves and allow the brain to develop binocular vision.

* Myth - Child will not require to wear spectacles after surgery.

Fact: Child will need to wear spectacles even after surgery as squint surgery only alters the position of the eyes. It does not correct poor vision due to refractive errors.

* Myth - Small angle squint need not be corrected.

Fact: Even a small angle squint can lead to amblyopia & poor vision, hence needs to be treated.



SQUINT



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What is Squint?

Squint is a misalignment of the eyes where they do not look together in the same direction. Squint can be constant (present at all the time) or intermittent (present occasionally when the child is tired or unwell). Squint can be seen at any age from few weeks after birth to old age.

What are the types of Squint?

The eye can be turned inwards (esotropia) or outwards (exotropia) or upwards (hypertropia)



ESOTROPIA



EXOTROPIA



HYPERTROPIA

Why does squint occur?

Squint occurs due to number of different reasons:

- * Poor development or damage to the brain area controlling eye muscle movement.
- * Poor vision in one eye which can prevent the brain from keeping the eye straight.
- * Damage to the nerves controlling the muscles of the eye.

What are the effects (problems) caused by squint?

- * Amblyopia (lazy eye) - A constant squint in one eye leads to progressive decrease in vision in that eye as that eye is not being used for seeing.
- * Loss of binocular vision: - A child with squint cannot appreciate depth or stereovision as it requires both eyes to be aligned with each other.
- * Abnormal head posture - some children adopt an abnormal head posture like turning face to one side or tilting the head to one side in order to keep both the eyes aligned together.
- * Cosmetic problems & loss of self esteem- A child with squint is always low in confidence as it is a cause of embarrassment among peers.

What is the treatment of squint?

It is often a stepwise approach involving:

- * Correcting amblyopia (lazy eye) - by patching the good eye for few hours every day so as to equalize the vision in both eyes.
- * Correcting refractive errors - some squints can be corrected by spectacles alone.
- * Surgery - involves operating on the eye muscles so as to align both the eyes together in all direction.

What is the ideal time for surgery?

In children surgery is usually performed between 6 months & 4 yrs of age. In adults, surgery can be done at any convenient time.

