



Orthoptic Department

Pseudostrabismus

Information for parents and carers

Introduction

This fact sheet is aimed at providing parents and carers with information about a condition called pseudostrabismus. This is also known as pseudosquint or false squint.

What is false squint or pseudostrabismus?

Pseudostrabismus is the term used when a baby's eyes look like they are pointing in different directions even though they are not. It is often noticed in photographs, especially if your baby's head is slightly turned, or if the photograph is taken at an angle.

Babies often have a wide, flat bridge to their nose that can make their eyes look crossed. Some babies can have folds in the skin on the eyelids that cover the inner white part of the eyes. These are called epicanthic folds. This can also make their eyes look crossed. The eyes may look more crossed when the baby looks to one side. In pseudosquint cases the illusion of a squint should improve as the child's face grows.

Here are two pictures of children with pseudostrabismus. The left eye looks as if it is turning inwards, but the eyes are straight.



This is not the same as a squint (strabismus), in which the eyes actually do point in different directions.



How is it diagnosed?

The Orthoptist will use various clinical assessments to assess your child's eye position, detect a true squint and assess how the eyes work together. If they are able to confirm a pseudostrabismus your child may still need follow up to monitor their visual development. Your orthoptist will discuss this with you.

How is it treated?

No treatment is required for pseudostrabismus because the child's eyes are straight and work together as a pair. The appearance of a false squint will improve as your baby grows because the bridge of their nose will develop and the epicanthic folds become less prominent.

Will my child be tested for glasses?

All children will be offered a test for glasses especially if there is a family history of glasses wear from a young age or a history of true strabismus. The test for glasses will be carried out by an optometrist (optician).

If you require further information or have any queries

Please contact the Orthoptic Department

Telephone number 0151 252 5215

Monday to Friday.
9.00 am - 5.00 pm

This leaflet only gives general information. You must always discuss the individual treatment of your child with the appropriate member of staff. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about your child's treatment.

This information can be made available in other languages and formats if requested.

Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust
Alder Hey
Eaton Road
Liverpool
L12 2AP

Tel: 0151 228 4811
www.alderhey.nhs.uk

