



Orthoptics Department

Pseudostrabismus

Information for parents and carers

Introduction

The fact sheet is aimed at providing parents and carers with information about a condition called pseudostrabismus (pronounced *soo-doh-strab-is-mus*). This is also known as “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.

Babies often have a wide, flat nose bridge that can make their eyes look crossed. Some babies can have folds in the skin of the inner eyelids that cover the inner white part of the eyes,

This can also make their eyes look crossed. The eyes may look more crossed when the baby looks to one side. This appearance should improve as the child's face grows.

Here are two pictures of a child with pseudostrabismus.



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 do several tests. A small light will be held in front of the baby's eyes to check if the reflection of this light is properly centred in each eye. The Orthoptist will also cover one of the child's eyes and then the other to see if the eyes shift abnormally when focusing on a near or distant object.

How is it treated?

No treatment is required as the child's eyes are actually straight.

If you require further information or have any queries

Please contact the Orthoptic Department

Telephone number 0151 252 5564

Monday to Friday.
9.00 am - 4.00 pm

This fact sheet 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.

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