

Squint

Other formats

If you need this information in another format such as audio CD, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language, please contact the PALS desk on 01271 314090 or at rduh.pals-northern@nhs.net.

What is a squint?

A squint is an eye that turns, and stops working with the other eye. The eye may turn in towards the nose or turn outwards, or sometimes up or down.

What causes it?

A squint is often caused by long-sightedness, which means the child might need glasses. The effort made by the child to see without glasses causes the eye to turn inwards. In some cases there may not be an obvious reason for the squint, but there is often a family history of squint and/or glasses.

Will my child grow out of a squint?

No, although some squints improve as the child gets older.

Will my child need treatment?

Often the treatment of squints requires both glasses and patches. To achieve the best results, treatment should be carried out before the child is seven years old. Some squints improve with glasses alone; others need surgery to straighten the eyes.

Are all squints treated the same?

No. There are different types of squint and different choices of treatment, some being more suitable to certain squints than others.

Who will treat my child's eyes?

There can be three different people who will look after your child's eyes.

The ophthalmologist (eye surgeon) will be responsible for general eye care and any surgery that is necessary. The ophthalmologist may also prescribe glasses.

The orthoptist will monitor the development of vision and advise you of any patching required and any exercises needed to help control the squint.

The optician/optometrist will assess the need for glasses and advise you when a change of prescription is needed.

Further information

If there is anything further you would like to know, please contact the Orthoptic Department on 01271 322469.

Useful website:

British and Irish Orthoptic Society
www.orthoptics.org.uk

Squint Clinic
www.squintclinic.com

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern call 01271 314090 or email rduh.pals-northern@nhs.net. You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple.

Have your say

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

Tell us about your experience of our services. Share your feedback on the Care Opinion website www.careopinion.org.uk.

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