

Exotropia in Children

This material will help you understand exotropia and how it is treated.

What is exotropia?

Exotropia is a type of eye misalignment (strabismus) where the eyes turn outward. This may happen constantly or once in a while. It may affect one or both eyes. It may be most obvious when your child is daydreaming, ill, or tired. A child with exotropia may close or rub one eye in bright light. Exotropia can be present at birth or in early infancy (congenital) or develop at any age (acquired).

What causes exotropia?

Exotropia may be caused by poor vision (sensory) or mechanical or neurological problems. In children less than one year of age, an inward pointing of eyes (esotropia) is much more common than exotropia. Exotropia in infancy should be promptly evaluated by a pediatric ophthalmologist to rule out an associated medical condition.

How is exotropia treated?

Treatment for exotropia depends on how severe and how often the child's symptoms occur. Treatments will either attempt to improve vision or mechanically align the eyes. Possible treatments include:

- Glasses
- Eye patching
- Eye exercises
- Surgery

Talk to your child's eye doctor about what treatment option is best.

For more information, scan these codes with your smartphone or visit the websites listed.



<http://www.aapos.org/terms/conditions/49>

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