

Optic Atrophy in Children

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

What is optic atrophy?

Optic atrophy occurs after damage to the optic nerve. The optic nerve carries images from the eye to the brain. Damage to your child's optic nerve can affect vision. This can include color vision.

What causes optic atrophy?

There are many causes of optic atrophy. The condition can sometimes be passed down from a parent (genetic). Other causes include inflammation of the optic nerve, trauma, impaired blood flow, toxins, vitamin deficiencies, and tumors. In some cases, the exact cause is unknown. The condition can develop at any time from birth through adulthood.

How is optic atrophy diagnosed?

Optic atrophy can be observed with a dilated eye exam. Additional testing such as an MRI or blood tests may be necessary.

How is optic atrophy treated?

There is no effective treatment to reverse optic atrophy. However, early diagnosis and treatment of the underlying causes can help prevent further damage.

If your child's vision loss has advanced to the point where it interferes with daily activities, he/she may need special assistance at school. Talk to your

child's school teachers or county representatives about available resources in your school or county.

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



<http://www.kellogg.umich.edu/patientcare/conditions/optic.atrophy.html>



<http://www.aapos.org/terms/conditions/81>

Disclaimer: This document contains information and/or instructional materials developed by the University of Michigan Health System (UMHS) for the typical patient with your condition. It may include links to online content that was not created by UMHS and for which UMHS does not assume responsibility. It does not replace medical advice from your health care provider because your experience may differ from that of the typical patient. Talk to your health care provider if you have any questions about this document, your condition or your treatment plan.

Author: Kristin Maurer, BA, MPH candidate
Reviewers: Marina Eisenberg, MD and Gale Oren, MILS

Unless otherwise noted, Patient Education by [University of Michigan Health System](#) is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License](#).

Last Revised 4/2015