

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

What is strabismus?

Strabismus is a condition when the eyes are not lined up properly. It is common among children, but can also develop in adults. You may notice that your child's eyes point in different directions. You may also notice that your child closes one eye or tilts his/her head. This may help your child's eyes work together. There are many different kinds of strabismus. Common types are esotropia, exotropia, and hypertropia. Esotropia is when one or both eyes turn inward. Exotropia is when one or both eyes turn outward. Hypertropia is when one eye turns upward.

How does strabismus affect my child's vision?

Eye misalignment can cause amblyopia or weak vision in an eye. When the eyes are oriented in different directions the brain receives two different images. The brain may ignore the input from the misaligned eye to avoid double vision, resulting in poor visual development in that eye. Misaligned eyes may also cause problems with stereopsis or perception of depth and 3-D.

What causes strabismus?

Eye muscles and the brain work together to point the eyes. Some children with strabismus have a brain disorder. Other children have a cataract (cloudiness in the eye's lense). Many children, however, do not have any of these conditions and the exact cause is unknown.

How is strabismus treated?

Treatment depends on your child's age and his/her type of strabismus. Some treatments include:

- Glasses
- Patching of the strong eye
- Prisms
- Eye exercises
- Surgery

For more information, scan this code with your smartphone or visit the website listed.



<http://www.aapos.org/terms/conditions/100>

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: Shreya Prabhu, 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