



Signs of eye disease in your child

- Not following light or showing interest in surroundings
- Stumbling over objects on the floor
- Noticing shining white reflex in the center of the eye
- Holding books close to face for reading
- Watching TV at very close distance
- Complaints from class teacher- inattention in class, spelling mistakes in copying from board
- Crossed eyes
- Abnormal head postures
- Unusual redness of eye with pain
- Constant severe headaches
- Defective night vision

Examination of the child by a paediatric ophthalmologist/ strabismologist is mandatory if the above signs are noticed in your child.



الاهلية للعناية بالعيون
AHALIA EYE CARE



PAEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY



الاهلية للعناية بالعيون
AHALIA EYE CARE

Delma Street, Old Airport Road,
P.O Box:2419, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Fax: 02 44 70 346, E: uniqueds@ahaliaeyecare.com

Ph: 02 44 39 777, W: www.ahaliaeyecare.com

Eye diseases in children, the importance of early treatment

Eye diseases in children have to be treated early in life, otherwise they have the risk of developing lazy eye. This condition is called amblyopia.

Common causes of amblyopia

1. Refractive Errors

- Hypermetropia (long sight) in one or both eyes
- Astigmatism
- Myopia (short sight) in one or both eyes

2. Squint

3. Media opacity (Cataract)

Can lead to lazy eyes or amblyopia called as ametropic or anisometropic amblyopia.

Treatment

Early prescription and regular usage of spectacles.

- Occlusion therapy (in case of anisometropic amblyopia i.e. difference in spectacle power in the two eyes)
- After 7,8 years of age the results of amblyopia treatment is not very promising.

Alternate Treatment Methods

- After the child is 18 or 19 years old, alternative methods like contact lenses or LASER treatment can be done to avoid the usage of spectacles.
- In special cases, these options can be tried for younger age group also.

Cataract

Cataract can be found in new born, infants and older children.

Reason

- Genetic
- Intrauterine infections
- Metabolic imbalances
- Trauma
- Ocular inflammations



Cataract is the development of cloudiness in the clear crystalline lens which blocks light rays from reaching the retina thereby preventing retinal stimulation leading to stimulus deprivation amblyopia.



Treatment

The cataract has to be surgically removed as early as possible (as soon as the baby is fit for anesthesia)

Rehabilitation

- Aphakic glasses
- Contact lenses
- Intra ocular lens implantations

Along with the occlusion therapy (unilateral cataracts) to obtain good visual results. If the treatment is delayed beyond the critical period of visual development of the child (upto 6 years) the treatment of amblyopia which has occurred due to the

presence of cataract becomes not only difficult but most of the times impossible.

Squint (strabismus)



- Squint in children is not a sign of good luck as believed by most people
- It can lead to permanent decrease of vision in one eye due to development of strabismic amblyopia.
- Squint can be bilateral or unilateral.
- Unilateral squints are more prone for developing amblyopia since the squinting eye sends blurry images to the brain which the brain fails to accept.
- Similar to cataract if the squint is not treated before the critical period, the visual loss becomes permanent.

Treatment

The amblyopia is treated with occlusion therapy before operating the squint. After maximum vision improvement is obtained the squint is surgically repaired to maintain the vision.

Other conditions which require early treatment

- Congenital glaucoma
- Congenital Nasolacrimal duct stenosis
- Retinopathy of prematurity
- Retinoblastoma