

Information for Parents/guardians

Patching Treatment

What is a lazy eye?

A lazy eye, also known as 'Amblyopia,' is when the vision in one eye doesn't develop properly in childhood. This means that your child can see less clearly out of one eye and relies more on the other 'good' eye. There are several causes for amblyopia, for example:

- A Squint (an inwards or outwards turn in one eye).
- A need for glasses where the lens in one eye is stronger than the other.
- A droopy eyelid.
- A childhood cataract.

Treating a 'lazy eye'

If glasses are needed, they must be worn all the time. It may be that wearing glasses alone will not be enough to improve the vision in the lazy eye. A patch may be needed to cover the eye that sees well and to encourage your child to use the lazy eye.

Sticky patch

This must be worn on the face, over the 'good' eye. If your child wears glasses, **they must be worn over the patch**. There are different brands of patches if your child has sensitive skin. Please let your orthoptist know if you have any problems.

Fabric Patch

If your child cannot tolerate the sticky patch and they wear glasses, there is a fabric patch that can be placed over their glasses. You would need to monitor if your child is peeping around this patch and let your orthoptist know.

How long is the patch worn for?

This depends on the age of your child and the level of vision in the 'lazy eye.' Usually, the poorer the vision in the 'lazy eye,' the longer the patch needs to be worn. This can be carried out in stages throughout the day or all at once. The patch can be worn at home or at school. If your child's vision does not improve, the number of hours the patch is worn may be increased.

Your child's patch should be worn over right eye / left eye

For _____ hours per day

How long will the patch be needed for?

This can vary depending on the age of your child and the level of vision in the lazy eye. Our aim is to improve the vision in the lazy eye to the best that it can be, ideally equal to the good eye. Once the best level of vision is reached, the time the patch is worn every day is gradually reduced.

How will the patch affect my child?

It is unlikely that your child will want to wear the patch but they will become used to it and as their vision improves it does become easier. With the patch on, your child's vision will be reduced from what they are used to and a little of their side vision will be lost on the side that the patch is worn. They may need extra supervision for certain activities such as playing outside. You may prefer your child not to wear the patch for activities such as running around or riding a bike.

It is important to closely monitor patients who are patching as double vision can occur in rare cases. If this occurs, stop patching immediately and ring the Orthoptic department for advice on the number below

What can I do if my child doesn't want to wear the patch?

Try and persevere; encourage your child and be positive. It is normal for your child to want to pull the patch off or become upset about wearing it. Find out what works for you and your child. You may want to try short periods of time with the patch on so your child can have a break from it during the day. If necessary, sit with your child and distract them.

We have patching charts and patching passports that your child can use to encourage them to wear their eye patch. Please ask your orthoptist for these.

Appointment attendance policy


We are striving to reduce the number of missed appointments. It is vital to your child's treatment that all appointments are attended. If you are unable to attend or if you miss an appointment, please contact **(0161) 276 5533** option 1 (child ophthalmology appointment) Monday-Friday 8.00 am - 4.00 pm as soon as possible so that an alternative appointment can be arranged.

Please be aware that hospital staff have a duty to discuss with the hospital safeguarding team and other agencies if a child or young person is repeatedly not brought for health appointments or if their health appointments are repeatedly cancelled.

If you require any further information, please contact the orthoptic department on:

 (0161) 701 4882 (Monday - Saturday, 8.00 am - 4.30 pm)

Please leave a message with your name and contact details if there is no answer and someone will call you back

 mft.orthoptic.enquires@nhs.net