

Information for Patients

Fresnel Prisms and Double Vision

What is a Fresnel Prism?

A Fresnel prism is a thin, transparent plastic sheet. It can be attached with water to one or both of the lenses in your glasses or a pair of non-prescription glasses. If non-prescription glasses are required, these can be obtained from your own optician or the dispensing opticians in the Eye Hospital. There is a small charge of approximately £12 for the glasses; there is no charge for the Fresnel prism.

The Fresnel prism will help to improve your double vision (seeing two images), when you look through the centre of it. Your vision may become slightly blurred or distorted through the prism. This will become less apparent with time as you become used to the prism.

Cleaning your Fresnel Prism

The Fresnel prism can be cleaned as you normally clean your glasses with a soft, dry cloth. You can use a soft toothbrush or nailbrush to gently remove dust from the ridges of the prism.

You can occasionally thoroughly clean your prism and glasses with water. You can remove your prism by placing your finger nail between the prism and the lens of your glasses and prising it off, then washing it with warm water and soap.

Replacing your Fresnel prism once washed or if it falls off

- Detect the smooth side of the Fresnel prism.
- Place a pool of water on the inside of the lens where the Fresnel prism is to be placed and push the smooth side of the Fresnel prism down onto the water. Check the lines of the Fresnel prism are aligned as set by your Orthoptist.
- Squeeze out any excess water and air bubbles and dry with a damp cloth.

Do not do this too often as the edges of the prism will curl upwards and it won't lie flat on your glasses.

Advantages of a Fresnel Prism

- Relieves double vision
- Lightweight
- Easy to clean
- Easy to change

Disadvantages of a Fresnel Prism

- May cause slight blurring or reduction of vision, due to the lines on the Fresnel prism.
- Will require the patient to wear glasses (with or without a prescription).
- Only beneficial when looking through the centre of the Fresnel prism.

There is no charge for the Fresnel prism; however, we can only fit the Fresnel prism to a maximum of two pairs of glasses for example sunglasses, spare glasses. If the prism becomes damaged it can be replaced in the orthoptic department or may be sent out in the post following discussion with you about the fitting.

If you wish to speak to one of the Orthoptists, please telephone **(0161) 701 4882**, Monday – Friday 8.00am – 6.00pm or Saturday 8.30am – 4.30pm. You can leave a message on the answer machine leaving your name and contact telephone number if there is no answer and someone will call you back as soon as possible.