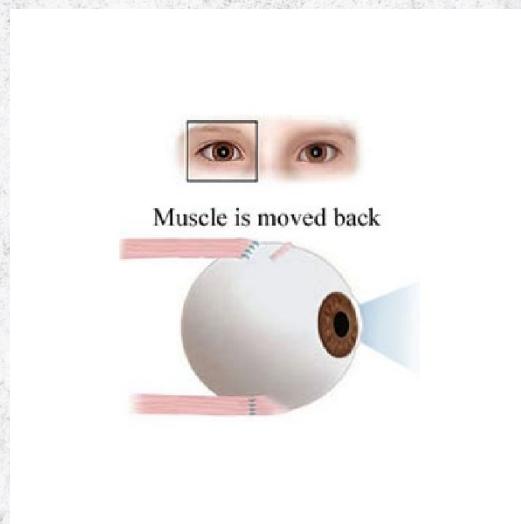


## Lazy eye



A "lazy eye" is a childhood condition where the vision does not develop properly. It's known medically as amblyopia; a child can develop a lazy eye as a result of other eye problems, a delay or lack of treatment can cause a child lifetime vision problem.

### Symptoms:

- Crossed eyes
- Staring, closing one eye, or tilting the head while looking at things
- Asymmetric movements of the eyes
- One eye turns inward or outward (horizontal motion)
- Trouble with depth perception
- Trouble telling how near or far away something is
- Ptosis of the upper eyelid

### When to see the doctor:

Lazy eye treatment requires early diagnosis and detection as treatment is most effective before the age of 6. However, because the symptoms of a lazy eye are difficult to detect in children, it often goes undiagnosed until the first routine eye check-up. This is why parents must have their children undergo the routine eye examinations recommended.

### **Causes:**

- **Strabismus:** The brain starts to ignore the double-vision image, resulting in a "lazy eye". As a result, the brain becomes increasingly reliant on the stronger eye, which prevents the other eye from developing correctly.
- **Cataracts:** Some children are born with cataracts. A cloudy lens inside your eye can make things look blurry. The vision in that eye might not develop the way it should.
- **Droopy eyelid (ptosis):** A sagging eyelid can block the vision, causing a lazy eye.

### **Treatment:**

In most cases it is possible to treat a lazy eye, usually in 2 stages.

If there's a problem with the amount of light entering the eye, such as a cataract blocking the pathway of light, treatment will be needed to remove the blockage.



If there's an eyesight problem such as short or long sight or astigmatism, it will first be corrected using glasses to correct the focus of the eye. This often helps correct a squint as well.

The child is then encouraged to use the affected eye again. This can be done using an eye patch to cover the stronger eye, or eyedrops to temporarily blur the vision in the stronger eye.

Treatment is a gradual process that takes many months to work. If treatment is stopped too soon, any improvement may be lost.

