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Eye Movement Disorders

When you look at an object, you're using several muscles to move both eyes to focus on it. If you have a problem with the muscles, the eyes don't work properly.

There are many kinds of eye movement disorders. Two common ones are:



- Strabismus - a disorder in which the two eyes don't line up in the same direction. This results in "crossed eyes" or "walleye."
- Nystagmus - fast, uncontrollable movements of the eyes, sometimes called "dancing eyes"

Some eye movement disorders are present at birth. Others develop over time and may be associated with other problems, such as injuries. Treatments include glasses, patches, eye muscle exercises, and surgery. There is no cure for some kinds of eye movement disorders, such as most kinds of nystagmus.

Start Here

- Nystagmus [<https://www.aaos.org/eye-health/diseases/what-is-nystagmus>] (American Academy of Ophthalmology)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.aaos.org/salud-ocular/enfermedades/nistagmo>]
- Nystagmus [<https://www.aapos.org/glossary/nystagmus>] (American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus)
- What Is Adult Strabismus? [<https://www.aaos.org/eye-health/diseases/what-is-strabismus>] (American Academy of Ophthalmology)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.aaos.org/salud-ocular/enfermedades/estrabismo>]

Diagnosis and Tests

- Dilating Eye Drops [<https://www.aapos.org/glossary/dilating-eye-drops>]
(American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus)
- Strabismus Measurements [<https://www.aapos.org/glossary/strabismus-measurements>]
(American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus)
- Videonystagmography (VNG) [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/videonystagmography-vng/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/videonistagmografia-vng/>]
- Vision Screening [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/vision-screening/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/examen-de-la-vista/>]

Treatments and Therapies


- Anesthesia for Adults Having Eye Surgery [<https://www.aapos.org/glossary/anesthesia-for-adults-having-eye-surgery>]
(American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus)
- Eye muscle repair - series [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100062_1.htm] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/esp_presentations/100062_1.htm]
- Prisms [<https://engage.aapos.org/glossary/prisms>] (American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus)

Strabismus Surgery [<https://www.aapos.org/glossary/strabismus-surgery>]

(American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus)

- Vision Therapy [<https://www.aapos.org/glossary/vision-therapy>] (American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus)

Related Issues

- Abnormal Head Position [<https://www.aapos.org/glossary/abnormal-head-position>]
(American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus)
- Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP) [<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/health-information/disorders/progressive-supranuclear-palsy-ppp>]  (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/es/health-information/disorders/paralisis-supranuclear-progresiva-ppp>]


Specifics

- Accommodative Esotropia [<https://www.aapos.org/glossary/accommodative-esotropia>]
(American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus)
- Brown Syndrome [<https://www.aapos.org/glossary/brown-syndrome>]
(American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus)
- Conjugate Gaze Palsies [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/home/brain-spinal-cord-and-nerve-disorders/cranial-nerve-disorders/conjugate-gaze-palsies>] (Merck & Co., Inc.)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/es-us/hogar/enfermedades-cerebrales-medulares-y-nerviosas/trastornos-de-los-pares-craneales/par%C3%A1lisis-de-la-mirada-conjugada>]
- Convergence Insufficiency [<https://www.aapos.org/glossary/convergence-insufficiency>]
(American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus)
- Cranial Nerve Palsy [<https://www.aapos.org/glossary/cranial-nerve-palsy>]
(American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus)
- Dissociated Vertical Deviation [<https://www.aapos.org/glossary/dissociated-vertical-deviation>]
(American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus)
- Duane Syndrome [<https://www.aapos.org/glossary/duane-syndrome>]
(American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus)
- Esotropia [<https://www.aapos.org/glossary/esotropia>] (American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus)
- Fourth Nerve (Superior Oblique) Palsy [<https://www.aapos.org/glossary/fourth-nerve-palsy>]
(American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus)
- Internuclear Ophthalmoplegia [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/home/brain-spinal-cord-and-nerve-disorders/cranial-nerve-disorders/internuclear-ophthalmoplegia>] (Merck & Co., Inc.)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/es-us/hogar/enfermedades-cerebrales-medulares-y-nerviosas/trastornos-de-los-pares-craneales/oftalmoplejia-internuclear>]
- Monocular Elevation Deficiency [<https://aapos.org/glossary/monocular-elevation-deficiency>]
(American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus)
- Monofixation Syndrome (MFS) [<https://aapos.org/glossary/monofixation-syndrome-mfs>]
(American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus)
- Oculomotor Apraxia [<https://www.aapos.org/glossary/oculomotor-apraxia>]
(American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus)
- Sixth Nerve Palsy [<https://www.aapos.org/glossary/sixth-nerve-palsy>]
(American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus)
- Third Nerve Palsy [<https://www.aapos.org/glossary/third-nerve-palsy>]
(American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus)
- What Is Microvascular Cranial Nerve Palsy? [<https://www.aao.org/eye-health/diseases/microvascular-cranial-nerve-palsy>]
(American Academy of Ophthalmology)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.aao.org/salud-ocular/enfermedades/paralisis-microvascular-del-nervio-craneal>]




Genetics

- About Duane Syndrome [<https://www.genome.gov/Genetic-Disorders/Duane-Syndrome>]
 (National Human Genome Research Institute)
- Ataxia with oculomotor apraxia: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/ataxia-with-oculomotor-apraxia>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Congenital fibrosis of the extraocular muscles: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/congenital-fibrosis-of-the-extraocular-muscles>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Duane-radial ray syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/duane-radial-ray-syndrome>]
 (National Library of Medicine)
- Horizontal gaze palsy with progressive scoliosis: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/horizontal-gaze-palsy-with-progressive-scoliosis>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Isolated Duane retraction syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/isolated-duane-retraction-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Progressive external ophthalmoplegia: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/progressive-external-ophthalmoplegia>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- X-linked infantile nystagmus: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/x-linked-infantile-nystagmus>]  (National Library of Medicine)

Statistics and Research

- Eye Health Data and Statistics [<https://www.nei.nih.gov/learn-about-eye-health/eye-health-data-and-statistics>]
 (National Eye Institute)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nei.nih.gov/espanol/aprenda-sobre-la-salud-ocular/datos-y-estadisticas-relacionadas-con-la-salud-ocular>]

Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Nystagmus, Pathologic [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Nystagmus,+Pathologic%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Ocular Motility Disorders [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Ocular+Motility+Disorders%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Strabismus [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Strabismus%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]
 (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: A novel approach using a polarized nonius test to evaluate the... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40516220>]
- Article: Binocular dysfunction in Parkinson's Disease: Decoding near triad dynamics and divergence... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40441403>]
- Article: Analysis of Eye Movements in Adults with Spinal Muscular Atrophy. [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40282862>]
- Eye Movement Disorders -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Ocular+Motility+Disorders%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+1+Year%22+%5Bedat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+>]

Reference Desk



- Anatomy of the Eye [<https://www.aapos.org/glossary/anatomy-of-the-eye>]
(American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus)

How the Eyes Work [<https://www.nei.nih.gov/learn-about-eye-health/healthy-vision/how-eyes-work>]

 (National Eye Institute)

Also in Spanish [<https://www.nei.nih.gov/espanol/aprenda-sobre-la-salud-ocular/vision-saludable/como-funcionan-los-ojos>]

Find an Expert

- American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus [<https://www.aapos.org/home>]
- Find an Ophthalmologist [<https://secure.aao.org/aao/find-ophthalmologist>] (American Academy of Ophthalmology)
Also in Spanish [<https://secure.aao.org/aao/encontrar-ofthalmologo>]
- Finding an Eye Doctor [<https://www.nei.nih.gov/learn-about-eye-health/healthy-vision/finding-eye-doctor>]
 (National Eye Institute)
- National Eye Institute [<https://www.nei.nih.gov/>] 

Children

- Photoscreening [<https://www.aapos.org/glossary/photoscreening>]
(American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus)
- Strabismus [<https://www.aapos.org/glossary/strabismus>] (American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus)

Adults

- Adult Strabismus (Eye Misalignment) [<https://www.aapos.org/glossary/adult-strabismus>]
(American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus)

Patient Handouts

- Cranial mononeuropathy III [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000698.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000698.htm>]
- Cranial mononeuropathy VI [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000690.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000690.htm>]
- Eye muscle repair [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002961.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/002961.htm>]
- Nystagmus [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003037.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003037.htm>]
- Strabismus [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001004.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001004.htm>]
- Supranuclear ophthalmoplegia [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001624.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001624.htm>]



Cranial mononeuropathy III [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000698.htm>]

Cranial mononeuropathy VI [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000690.htm>]

Extraocular muscle function testing [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003397.htm>]

Eye muscle repair [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002961.htm>]

Eye muscle repair - discharge [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000111.htm>]

Eye muscle repair - series [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100062_1.htm]

Nystagmus [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003037.htm>]

Strabismus [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001004.htm>]

Supranuclear ophthalmoplegia [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001624.htm>]

National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Eye Movement Disorders* is the National Eye Institute [<https://nei.nih.gov/>]

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