

## Will it get better on its own?

**NO.** If left untreated the child may have permanently damaged sight which cannot be corrected when they are older.



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## Tips

- Encourage
- Persevere
- Make it routine
- Keep them busy
- Enlist support from others
- Make it fun
- Reward good behaviour

## Contact us:

If you have any questions, please speak to any of the eye care professionals at your next appointment.

Orthoptic Department

Tel: **01792 285213**

(Monday to Friday: 9.00am to 4.30pm)

Singleton Hospital

Orthoptic Department

# Amblyopia

## “Lazy Eye”

Information for Parents and Carers

## What is Lazy eye?

A lazy eye is a common name for **Amblyopia** which is a childhood condition where the vision does not develop properly in one eye. Commonly only one eye is affected however in some cases both eyes can be affected. The condition is common, affecting approximately 2 or 3 of every 100 people.

## What causes Amblyopia?

Amblyopia can be caused by any condition that affects the normal use of the eyes while vision is developing. The 3 major causes are:

- **Strabismus (Squint)** - the misaligned eye “switches off” to avoid double vision and the child uses the better eye.
- **Unequal glasses prescription** - when one eye is more out of focus due to being more shortsighted, longsighted or astigmatic. This eye will be more blurred therefore not developing properly.
- **An obstacle blocking visual stimulation** to the eye, such as a droopy eyelid or cataract (cloudy lens); the amblyopia might persist even after the obstacle has been removed.

## How is Amblyopia treated?

The child must be encouraged to use the weak eye.

Amblyopia can be treated with glasses and/or occlusion treatment.

**Glasses** help by allowing the eye to focus properly and should be worn full-time.

A **patch** covering the good eye will force the lazy eye to work harder. The Orthoptist will advise you on the length of time the patch should be worn but generally this will be for 2 or 6 hours daily depending on the eyesight in the weaker eye.

Alternatively, **Atropine drops** may be instilled into the stronger eye to blur the vision and force the weaker eye to be used.

## How effective is the treatment?

Success is dependent on the initial level of vision of the lazy eye, age and the level of co-operation with treatment. It is very important to detect and treat amblyopia as early as possible to get the best possible vision.