

## How is Strabismus surgery done?

There are six muscles that control the movement of each eye. They are located under the conjunctiva on the outer coat of the eye. During surgery, a muscle is most commonly weakened or strengthened to realign the two eyes. The eye is not removed during this procedure. A small incision is made through the conjunctiva and the eye muscle approached through the incision. Very small sutures are used to close the incision; which are naturally absorbed as the eye heals.

Which muscles are selected and how much surgery is done is determined by all the preliminary exams in the office, including observing eye movements and performing measurements with prisms. In approximately 20% of cases surgery may need to be repeated. This procedure is most commonly done on an outpatient basis with general anesthesia.

## Your Eye Care is Our Number One Concern

At TLC Eyecare and Laser Centers, we are committed to providing premier eye care service. Our state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment allows early diagnosis of common eye problems such as cataract, glaucoma, macular degeneration, and diabetic retinopathy, often before symptoms occur. Our board-certified ophthalmologists and optometrists use the newest technologies and treatments available in the United States today, allowing us to treat eye ailments safely and effectively.

## Offering State-of-the-Art Eye Care to Our Patients

Vision is one of the most important of the five senses, and healthy eyes are necessary for good vision. Eye problems can occur at any age, but the chance for developing them increases as we age. Vision problems can affect a person's overall health, causing disability, stress, and a decreased quality of life.

Early detection of eye problems is vital for maintaining healthy eyes. Diagnosing an eye disease in its early stages minimizes its damage and greatly affects the success of treatment. Because many eye ailments have no symptoms until their advanced stages, regular and thorough eye exams with our affiliate network of optometrists are necessary throughout your lifetime to help maintain healthy eyes.

## We Make it Easy for You To Maintain Healthy Eyes

With several centers located throughout Michigan and Ohio, our patients enjoy easy access to quality eye care whenever and wherever they need it. Because TLC Eyecare and Laser Centers have doctors on call twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, our patients have immediate access to treatment for unforeseen eye injuries and accidents.

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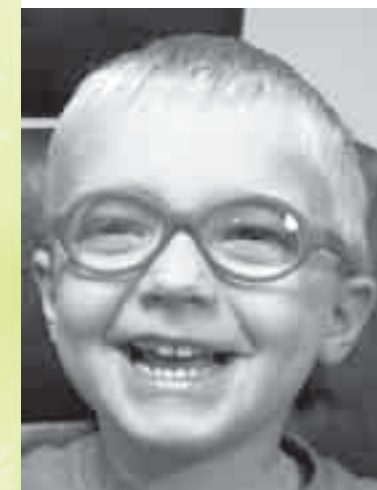
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# Strabismus



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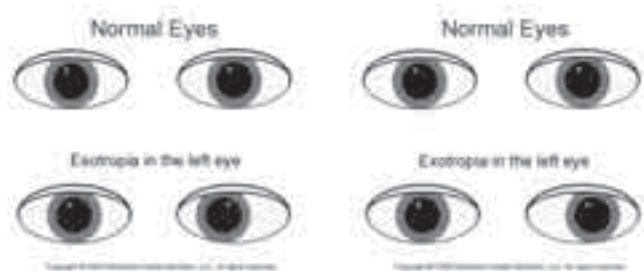
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# Strabismus

## What is Strabismus?

Strabismus is a condition in which the eyes don't work together when looking toward an object. Most often strabismus occurs in early childhood but can be present in adults. The most common types are esotropia (eyes turn in) and exotropia (eyes turn out). This can happen all the time or may be intermittent, such as during illness or stressful situations. A complete eye exam is done to determine the nature of the problem and to guide treatment.



## What causes Strabismus?

The exact cause of strabismus is not fully understood. Some people are born with eyes that do not align in the usual way; this is called infantile (congenital) strabismus. Strabismus is much more likely to occur if one or both parents are affected. However, many cases occur without any family history of eye muscle problems.

Strabismus is important to recognize, especially because in childhood it is often associated with the development of amblyopia (lazy eye). In children, when the two eyes fail to focus on the same image, the brain may learn to ignore the input from one eye (suppress). It is for this reason that children with strabismus do not have double vision. A child is able to use each eye equally and separately due to suppression; however, if only one eye is suppressed and this is allowed to continue, the eye that

the brain ignores will never see well. This loss of vision is called amblyopia. Unless treated in early childhood, generally before 6 to 8 years of age, amblyopia will become permanent.

## What are the possible signs of Strabismus?

- an eye that is not straight
- squinting one eye in bright sunlight
- tilting the head to use the eyes together

If strabismus does not appear until later in life, it will cause double vision (diplopia). Because the brain of an adult is already developed for vision, amblyopia does not develop with adult onset strabismus.

Other effects on vision can be:

- loss of depth perception
- reduced peripheral vision
- eyestrain
- headaches

Both children and adults with strabismus may experience a negative self image due to their condition.

## How is Strabismus diagnosed?

A complete eye exam including pupil dilation is necessary, along with a full family and medical history. Although preverbal children cannot read the eye chart for a formal vision assessment, pediatric ophthalmologists are familiar enough with normal and abnormal visual behavior in children.

## What is Pseudostrabismus?

The eyes of infants often appear to be crossing, though they are actually straight and aligned. Young children often have a wide, flat bridge of the nose and a fold of skin at the inner corner of the eyelid that make the eyes appear too close together. This appearance can improve over time as the child grows. A child will not outgrow true strabismus without proper and timely treatment.



## How is Strabismus treated?

Nonsurgical and surgical treatments are possible for strabismus depending on the findings of the complete eye exam.

Nonsurgical treatments can include:

- Patching
- Glasses
- Eye drops
- Exercises
- Prisms



Often, a combination of treatment methods may be best. Strabismus is generally considered a lifelong problem that can be improved but rarely cured.

