

# Pseudo Strabismus

## – the false appearance of a squint

### Information for Patients

#### Shrewsbury Orthoptic Clinic

Royal Shrewsbury Hospital  
Mytton Oak Road  
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Tel: 01743 261000 ext 3324

#### Telford Orthoptic Clinic

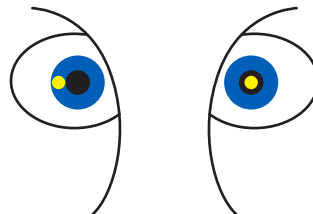
Princess Royal Hospital  
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Tel: 01952 641222 ext 4167



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We Value **Respect**  
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### What is pseudo strabismus?

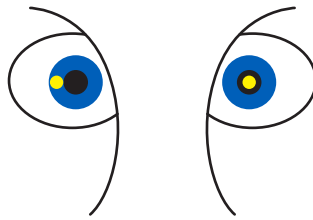
A pseudo strabismus or pseudo squint is the false appearance of a 'squint'. It looks as if one or both eyes turn in, out, up or down; but in fact the eyes are straight. This false impression of a squint is often most noticeable in photographs:



**Pseudo ('false') strabismus** – the light reflections (white dots) are central in each eye.

The prevention of infection is a major priority in all healthcare and everyone has a part to play.

- Please decontaminate your hands frequently for 20 seconds using soap and water or alcohol gel if available
- If you have symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, cough or other respiratory symptoms, a temperature or any loss of taste or smell please do not visit the hospital or any other care facility and seek advice from 111
- Keep the environment clean and tidy
- Let's work together to keep infections out of our hospitals and care homes.



**True strabismus (squint)** – the light reflection (white dot) is central in the right eye, but on the edge of the coloured part of the left eye. This shows a true left convergent squint (left eye turning in).

## What causes a pseudo strabismus?

The most common cause is epicanthus. This is folds of skin over the inside corner of one or both eyes and often occurs with a flat bridge of the nose. Other causes include a large or narrow distance between the eyes, different coloured eyes (heterochromia), difference in level of the upper eyelids, uneven facial features or a difference in the size of the pupils (the central black circle in the middle of the eye).

## Is it common?

Yes. Many babies (Approximate age 0-3 years) have pseudo strabismus.

## What is the treatment?

No treatment is required. As your child grows, the bridge of the nose will develop, and the pseudo strabismus (false appearance of squint) will become less noticeable.

## Assessment of your child

The Orthoptist will check your child's vision in each eye and check to ensure that your child does not have a true strabismus (squint). Your child will be monitored until we are able to test their vision using pictures or letters in a row. Your child may then be discharged to school vision screening or the local Optician for continued care.

## Testing for glasses

Your child will be tested to see if they need glasses at approximately 2 years old by a hospital Optician.

## Benefits of assessment

Peace of mind - to know your child doesn't have a true squint and that their vision is good. If your child is found to have a squint, it is helpful to find out early in order to receive advice on the best course of management and if any treatment is required.

## Risks of not having assessment for pseudo strabismus

A true squint can occur in children at different ages and can cause significant vision problems if left untreated. It is important to attend all hospital appointments even if your child has been found to have pseudo strabismus as a baby, as they may still develop a true squint when they are older.

## Future vision assessment

Children in Shropshire county primary schools are funded for a vision screening check by an Orthoptist in their reception year at age 4-5 years old. Older children able to attend the local Optician are entitled to free eye examinations until the age of 16 years.

## Orthoptic Department

Telephone: Shrewsbury Hospital  
Princess Royal Telford Hospital

Tel: 01743 261000 ext 3324  
Tel: 01952 641222 ext 4167

## Further information and advice can be obtained from

NHS Choices online  
[www.nhs.uk/pages/home.aspx](http://www.nhs.uk/pages/home.aspx)

The British and Irish Orthoptic Society  
[www.orthoptics.org.uk](http://www.orthoptics.org.uk)  
01353 665541

### Patient Advice & Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS will act on your behalf when handling patient and family concerns. They can also help you get support from other local or national agencies. PALS is a confidential service.

### Royal Shrewsbury Hospital

Monday to Thursday - 9am to 5pm, Friday - 9am to 12.30pm  
Tel: 01743 261691 or 0800 783 0057 Fax 01743 261368  
An answerphone will take out-of-hours messages

### Princess Royal Hospital

Monday to Friday - 9am to 4.30pm  
Tel: 01952 282888 OR 01952 641222 ext: 4382 Fax 01952 222365  
No answerphone service



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## English

If you need information in another way like easy read or a different language please let us know.

If you need an interpreter or assistance please let us know.

## Lithuanian

Jeigu norėtumėte, kad informacija jums būtų pateikta kitu būdu, pavyzdžiui, supaprastinta forma ar kita kalba, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Jeigu jums reikia vertėjo ar kitos pagalbos, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

## Polish

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać te informacje w innej postaci, na przykład w wersji łatwej do czytania lub w innym języku, prosimy powiedzieć nam o tym.

Prosimy poinformować nas również, jeżeli potrzebowaliby Państwo usługi tłumaczenia ustnego lub innej pomocy.

## Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵਿਚ ਆਸਾਨ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਜੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ, ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੁਆਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀ ਜਾਂ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

## Romanian

Dacă aveți nevoie de informații în alt format, ca de exemplu caractere ușor de citit sau altă limbă, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Dacă aveți nevoie de un interpret sau de asistență, vă rugăm să ne informați.

## Traditional Chinese

如果您需要以其他方式了解信息，如易读或其他语种，请告诉我们。

如果您需要口译人员或帮助，请告诉我们。