

STRABISMUS

What is strabismus?

Strabismus, sometimes known as “crossed eyes,” is a visual condition in which the eyes are not accurately aligned. One eye may be constantly or periodically turned in, out, up, or down in relation to the other eye. This lack of eye teaming may also occur under certain conditions such as when a person is tired, looks in a certain direction, or tries to see clearly at a specific distance. The eye turn may also alternate between eyes.

What causes strabismus?

Strabismus is caused by a lack of nerve-muscle coordination, neurological or mechanical issues. Strabismus may also occur due to an eye injury, head injury, or stroke. In addition strabismus may be caused by excessive farsightedness or other eye problem. Strabismus tends to be hereditary, but there are many factors involved.

Who is affected by strabismus?

Strabismus tends to occur either shortly after birth, around age 3, or shortly after children start school. Some strabismus develops later in life due to a vision problem that has existed for many years, for which a person can no longer compensate. Strabismus due to a stroke or injury can occur at any age.

Will a child outgrow strabismus?

Children almost never outgrow strabismus. It usually becomes more habitual over time and is frequently the cause of amblyopia (lazy eye) in which the vision in the deviated eye decreases due to lack of use. If left untreated, amblyopia may result in legal blindness of the affected eye.

What are the effects of strabismus?

Strabismus can initially cause double vision. To avoid double vision, the brain often disregards the image from one eye. This can result in permanent vision loss from amblyopia and impairs the function of stereopsis (binocular depth perception), which can affect sports performance, driving, and many other activities.

