

PATIENT INFORMATION

Brown's syndrome

What is Brown's syndrome?

Brown's syndrome is an eye movement disorder which can be present from birth or acquired later in life. Patients with Brown's syndrome are unable to look up when the affected eye is looking inwards.

What causes Brown's syndrome?

The muscle involved is called the superior oblique muscle; this muscle travels through a cartilage structure to produce an upwards movement of the eye.

In Brown's syndrome there is usually an abnormality with this structure causing a restriction of the ability to look upwards when the eye is inwards.

Can Brown's syndrome improve?

Acquired and intermittent cases can often improve; however, Brown's syndrome present from birth is unlikely to spontaneously resolve.

Is Brown's syndrome hereditary?

Hereditary cases are rare. Most arise without any family history.

What problems occur with Brown's syndrome?

Most people with Brown's syndrome have no problems. Sometimes a head posture may be used to avoid looking into the area where the eye movement is restricted as there may be some double vision. In some cases, the child may develop amblyopia (reduced vision in one eye) because they ignore the image from that eye to avoid double vision. This will be treated by your orthoptist.

How is Brown's syndrome treated?

Most people do not require any treatment for this condition. They may be followed up in the orthoptic department to ensure the vision develops correctly. If the vision is reduced in one eye the child may need some patching to help improve the vision.

In rare cases if there is a very large head posture and/or turn in the eye when looking straight ahead, surgery may be considered.

Further information

http://www.squintclinic.com/videos/type_of_squint/other_types_of_squint/browns_syndrome

If you need to speak to the orthoptist, please contact:

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