

PATIENT INFORMATION

Duane's syndrome

What is Duane's syndrome?

Duane's syndrome is an eye movement disorder present from birth which can affect one or both eyes.

Patients with Duane's syndrome can have difficulty moving their eye outwards or inwards.

Are there any other features?

- Strabismus (squint) – the eyes may be misaligned when looking straight ahead.
- Amblyopia (lazy eye) – if a squint is present this may result in reduced vision in the affected eye.
- Eyelid narrowing – the affected eye may appear narrower than the other.
- Head turn to one side – to keep the eyes in a straight position.
- The eye may appear to shoot upwards or downwards when looking to the side.

Are there different types of Duane's syndrome?

There may be difficulty turning the eye outwards, inwards or both when attempting to look to one side.

What is the cause of Duane's syndrome?

There are six muscles surrounding the eye; each muscle is controlled by one of three nerves within the brain.

The restriction of the eye movement is caused by either abnormal information sent from one of the nerves to the muscle or by a defect in one of the muscles from birth.

The restriction of eye movement will not change over time.

Treatment

Patching – may be needed if the vision is reduced in one eye. This may occur if there is a constant turn in the eye.

Glasses – in some cases may be needed. These will be prescribed to maximise visual potential, but they will not improve the Duane's condition.

Surgery – is a possible treatment in some cases. The aim is to improve the alignment of the eyes when looking straight ahead.

Further information

[Squint Clinic | Type of Squint | Other | Duane's Syndrome](#)

CONTACT

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