

# Paediatric and Strabismus

The development of eyesight during childhood is a complex and critical process. Children suffer from many eye problems and these can often go undetected – education can suffer and the child may be labelled as disruptive when all along it is because they cannot see well.

Paediatric ophthalmology – the study and treatment of eye disease in childhood – needs to work at many levels. Primary screening of normal children in the first two years of schooling usually finds about 15% have some eye problem. A systematic screening of all children is important and we provide this service to a number of schools in the UAE.

The treatment of eye disease may be something as simple as a pair of glasses, or may need intensive training or complex surgery. Our orthoptic department is able to do a comprehensive evaluation of children with “lazy” eyes (amblyopia) and see them through the years of patching and glasses.

Eyes that squint (strabismus) often need surgery ranging from the simple to the very complex. Our Paediatric Eye Consultant has wide experience of even the most complex of such procedures. Children also suffer from abnormalities in the development of the eye. The range of such disorders is huge and specialists in this field need very wide experience in order to recognise the diagnoses.

Our Paediatric Consultant trained at the top hospitals in the UK and has spent a decade in this field. In addition, we maintain strong links with the parent hospital and the Institute of Ophthalmology in London and so are able to share complex cases and research.

Finally, even children who have severe eyesight problems can still lead active and productive lives. We are keen to work with schools and other organisations to help such children through their early years.



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