



**York Teaching Hospital**  
NHS Foundation Trust

# Pseudostrabismus

Information for patients, relatives and carers

① For more information, please contact:

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Caring with pride



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Your child has been assessed by the Orthoptist and nothing abnormal has been found. This leaflet explains what a pseudo strabismus is.

## What is a pseudo strabismus?

Strabismus/squint is a medical term for eye misalignment.

Pseudo strabismus or pseudo squint refers to the appearance of a squint when the eyes are straight.

It is not uncommon for young children to look like they have squint but in reality their eyes are straight and working together normally.

## Is it common?

Yes, many young children have a pseudo squint.

## What can cause a pseudo squint?

- A wide flat bridge of the nose
- **Epicanthic Folds** (prominent folds of skin over the inner corner of the eye)
- A large or narrow distance between the eyes

Young children often have a broad flat bridge to their nose and/or epicanthic folds. Either of these can create the impression that the eyes are not aligned. The bridge or the epicanthic fold hides the corner of one eye creating the impression that the eye is turning in.

## How do you test for it?

If you shine a light at your child's eyes, you will see a reflection of the light on the front surface of the pupil of each eye (black part in the middle of each eye); these are known as the 'Corneal Reflections'. If the eyes are straight, these reflections will be in the same place in each eye. This is the case in a pseudo squint but if there is a true squint the light reflections will be on different places on each eye.



## Is treatment required?

No

## Will a pseudo squint disappear?

Yes, as the child grows and their face changes shape the appearance of the pseudo squint will become less noticeable until it 'disappears' completely.

A true squint will not disappear and may become more noticeable with time. **If you continue to see a squint in your child and especially if you begin to see it more frequently, you should ask your GP to refer you back to the Eye Clinic.** We are more than happy to see you again if you continue to have concerns.

## Routine vision screening

All children who live in the York and North Yorkshire area undergo a simple vision test in reception year at school if you consent to it. If they fail this vision test, they will be referred into the Orthoptic Service at the hospital for further assessment.

## **Tell us what you think of this leaflet**

We hope that you found this leaflet helpful. If you would like to tell us what you think, please contact: the Orthoptic Department, The York Hospital, Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE or telephone 01904 726750.

## **Teaching, training and research**

Our Trust is committed to teaching, training and research to support the development of health and healthcare in our community. Healthcare students may observe consultations for this purpose. You can opt out if you do not want students to observe. We may also ask you if you would like to be involved in our research.

## **Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)**

PALS offers impartial advice and assistance to patients, their relatives, friends and carers. We can listen to feedback (positive or negative), answer questions and help resolve any concerns about Trust services.

PALS can be contacted on 01904 726262, or email [pals@york.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@york.nhs.uk).

An answer phone is available out of hours.

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