



## Strabismus

Strabismus is a misalignment of the eyes where the two eyes are pointed in different directions. Though it is a common condition which affects four percent of children, it may also appear later in life. The misalignment may be permanent and always noticeable, or it may come and go, appearing normal at times and abnormal at others. One eye may be directed straight ahead while the other eye is turned inward, outward, upward, or downward. In other cases, the turned eye may straighten at times, and the straight eye may turn.

There are six eye muscles attached to the outside of each eye which control its movement. In each eye, two muscles move the eye right or left; the other four muscles move the eye up or down and control tilting movements. In order to line up and focus both eyes on a target, all eye muscles of each eye must be balanced and working together with the corresponding muscles of the opposite eye. When the eye muscles do not work together, then the eyes appear misaligned or a strabismus.

### Treatment

The goals of treatment are to preserve vision, straighten the eyes, and restore binocular vision. Treatment of strabismus depends upon the exact cause of the misaligned eyes. Treatment may include, patching one eye, glasses, surgical procedure, or observation. Discuss any questions or concerns with Dr. Currier and he can help you make a more educated decision.

