

PRACTICE NAME

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE

To Our Patients:

Our office is pleased to offer a new vision test to all patients starting at six months of age, the Enfant® Pediatric VEP Vision Testing System. The purpose of this test is the early detection of abnormalities in your child's vision.

More than 200,000 children are born each year with vision problems. Many of these problems go undetected until it is too late to easily correct the problem. The most common problem with children's vision is Amblyopia.

[Amblyopia: Is it affecting your child's sight?](#)

Q: What is Amblyopia?

Amblyopia is poor vision in an eye that otherwise appears normal. It is sometimes called "lazy eye." Amblyopia occurs when the brain does not recognize the sight from that eye, and usually only one eye is affected. Eventually, the brain stops using the weaker eye, causing poor vision or even blindness in that eye. The condition is common, affecting 3-5 out of every 100 people. Amblyopia can be corrected if treated during early childhood.

Q: What are the Causes and Symptoms?

Amblyopia is caused by an abnormality that affects normal use of the eyes and visual development. Most commonly it occurs when one eye's ability to focus is worse than the other because of nearsightedness, farsightedness, or astigmatism. The out of focus eye "turns off" becomes lazy or amblyopic, and the child depends on the better eye to see. Amblyopia can occur with misaligned eyes such as crossed eyes. An eye disease such as a cataract (clouding of the lens which prevents light from being focused properly), may lead to amblyopia. Any factor that prevents a clear image from reaching the back of the eye or prevents the information from reaching the vision center of the brain properly can lead to amblyopia in a child. It is possible for children to inherit the condition.

Amblyopia often goes unrecognized. A child may not be aware of having one good eye and one poor eye. Unless the child has a crossed eye or an obvious abnormality, there is nothing to suggest the child's condition to the parents.

Q: How is Amblyopia detected?

Amblyopia is often detected by finding a difference in vision between each eye.

Q: How is Amblyopia treated?

To treat amblyopia, the child must be forced to use the weak eye. This is usually done by patching or covering the good eye. If necessary, glasses are prescribed to correct errors or imbalances in focusing. Occasionally, amblyopia is treated by blurring the vision in the good eye with special drops or optical lenses in order to force the child to use the amblyopic eye. If misaligned eyes or an abnormality such as a cataract is discovered, the eye care provider may prescribe medicine or surgery to correct the problem causing amblyopia.

Q: Can anything be done to treat Amblyopia and prevent vision loss?

Early detection followed by prompt treatment by an Eye Care Specialist, as well as diligent adherence to any treatment prescribed, is a successful combination for overcoming amblyopia. If amblyopia is not treated, several things may occur: the amblyopic eye may develop a serious and irreversible visual defect, depth perception may be lost, and if the good eye becomes diseased or injured, a lifetime of poor and uncorrectable vision may result.

Q: When should my child have his/hers eyes checked?

The American Academy of Ophthalmology and American Academy of Pediatrics recommends all children have their vision checked beginning in the newborn period and at all well child visits.

We strongly recommend this new vision testing method as part of your child's wellness program. If you have additional questions please feel free to ask your child's doctor.

Thank You,

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