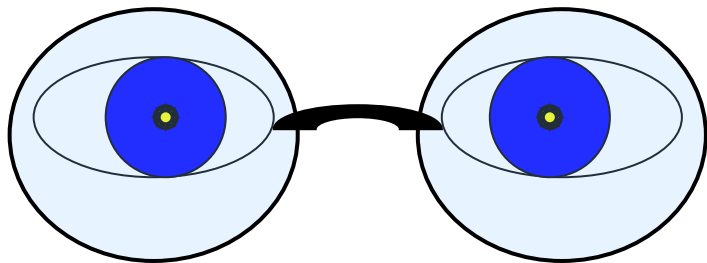


What is fully accommodative esotropia?

A child with a fully accommodative esotropia will have an inward-turning squint (cross-eyed) when they do not have their long-sighted glasses on but will have straight eyes with their glasses on.



A left fully accommodative esotropia without their glasses. The light reflected from the squinting eye is in a different place to the light reflected from the straight eye.



A left fully accommodative esotropia with their glasses. The light reflected from the eyes is in the same place in both eyes; the eyes are straight.

What causes the squint?

The squint is caused by over-focusing in an attempt to see more clearly which causes the eye to turn in. The over-focusing may not be controlled for very long and your child may experience a headache or achy eyes without their glasses on.

What do the glasses do?

Children with this type of squint are long-sighted and need the glasses to give them a clear view of the world. The glasses do the focussing for the child which stops them needing to over-focus and helps to control the squint.

You may still see the squint when the glasses are not worn.

Will an operation be needed?

No, as the eyes are straight with their glasses on.

Would contact lenses help in the same way as glasses?

Yes. We would not advise that contact lenses be used until the child is old enough to be able to put the lenses in themselves and they would be responsible enough to carry out the maintenance and hygiene required (typically mid-teens). We suggest that you discuss contact lenses with your optician who will be happy to advise you.

Would laser eye correction help?

Studies of laser vision correction for this type of squint have only begun recently and so far the results have been promising¹. It is possible that in the future this may be a treatment option.

1. Sabetti L. et al 'PRK and LASIK in refractive accommodative esotropia', Journal of Cataract & Refractive Surgery, October 2005 31:10:1899-1903

Will my child grow out of the squint/needing glasses?

Glasses will be needed for seeing clearly and it is important that your child has a glasses test each year to ensure that the glasses they wear are the right strength to give the clearest vision. The majority of children will always need their glasses for clear vision and to maintain straight eyes. Your orthoptist will monitor your child's condition for any changes.

Would exercises help?

Some children can, with the help of exercises, be taught to relax their focusing and keep their eyes straight without their glasses for short periods of time (for example, when having photographs taken).

Whether this is a suitable treatment for your child is dependant on the size of their squint and the strength of the glasses they need. Your orthoptist will be able to advise you on this.

You may find this website useful:
www.squintclinic.com
(convergent squint section)

For more information or if you have any questions please contact:

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Fully Accommodative Esotropia

