



Amblyopia Treatment Study

An Observational Study of Optical Correction for Strabismic Amblyopia in Children 3 to less than 7 Years Old

Information for Parents



What is amblyopia?

Amblyopia is sometimes called “lazy eye.” It is the medical term used when the vision in one of the eyes is reduced because the eye is not being used properly. The eye itself looks normal, but it is not being used normally because the brain is favoring the other eye.

How common is amblyopia?

Amblyopia is one of the most common causes of decreased vision in children. The condition affects approximately 2 or 3 out of every 100 children.

What causes amblyopia?

Amblyopia may be caused by any condition that affects the normal use of the eyes and visual development. This can be due to an imbalance in the positioning of the eyes (*strabismus*), which can be either a crossing in (*esotropia*) or turning out (*exotropia*) of the eyes. Sometimes amblyopia is caused by a difference in the refraction of the two eyes (such as one eye having more nearsightedness, farsightedness, or astigmatism than the other eye).

How is amblyopia usually treated?

A first step in the treatment of amblyopia is to find out if glasses are needed. Sometimes wearing glasses can improve amblyopia. However, when the amblyopia is caused by the crossing in or turning out of the eyes, it is not known how often glasses will help the amblyopia. This study is trying to find this out.

What is the Pediatric Eye Disease Investigator Group?

The study is being conducted by the Pediatric Eye Disease Investigator Group, or PEDIG for short. Your child’s eye doctor is a member of this group. The study will include about 150 children at pediatric eye centers across North America. The Jaeb Center for Health Research is the coordinating center (data center) which is organizing the study. The National Eye Institute is providing the funding for the study.

What will the study provide?

Your child has amblyopia related to crossing of the eyes and has a need for glasses. If your child takes part in the study, he/she will be given a pair of glasses at no charge. The glasses are the only treatment used in this study.

How long will my child be in the study?

Your child will be seen by the eye doctor 9 weeks and 18 weeks after receiving the glasses. At each visit, your child’s vision, eye alignment, and depth perception will be checked.

If your child’s vision continues to improve through the 18-week visit, your child will have follow-up visits every 9 weeks until your child’s vision stops improving.

After your child finishes the study, the eye doctor will let you know if additional treatment is needed. If this is the case, your child may be eligible for another study.

What will be your responsibilities if you agree to have your child participate in the study?

If you agree to have your child be a part of the study, you will be expected to try your best to have your child wear his or her glasses all of the time. It is important that no other treatment for amblyopia be used during the study. In addition, it is important that your child return for the two follow-up visits at 9 and 18 weeks. You and your child will be a very important part of the research team, and like its other members, you will have a commitment to the study.

What costs will be your responsibility?

If your child takes part in the study, he/she will be given a pair of glasses at no charge.

The costs of the office visits will be your or your insurance company’s responsibility since they would be needed whether your child was in the study or not.

To cover travel and other visit-related expenses, you will be paid \$25 for completing each exam, up to a maximum of \$150 if your child has 6 visits during the study.

Why should I volunteer to have my child participate in the study?

The best reason to volunteer for the ATS is to be part of a research study designed to provide answers about how to best treat amblyopia. Although the results may not be of direct benefit to your child, they are expected to benefit other children with amblyopia.

What do I need to do to have my child participate in the study?

You will be told if your child is eligible for the study. If you want your child to be in the study, you will be asked to sign a form (Informed Consent Form) giving your consent. This form will give more details about the study.

Coordinating Center:

Jaeb Center for Health Research
Tampa, FL
Phone: 888-79PEDIG
Email: pedig@jaeb.org

If you would like further information or are interested in participating in this study please contact:

Dr. Marjean Taylor Kulp
The Ohio State University
College of Optometry
338 W. 10th Ave.
(614) 688-3336
e-mail: kulp.6@osu.edu

Directions to Optometry Services

From the North:

Take State Route 315 S to King/Kinnear exit.
Turn left onto Kinnear Rd (Kinnear turns into Olentangy)
Take Olentangy River Road to King Ave. (3rd light).
Turn left onto King Ave.
Take King Ave. to Cannon Drive.
Turn left onto Cannon Drive.
Take Cannon Drive to Medical Center Drive.
Turn right onto Medical Center Drive.

From the South:

Take State Route 315 N to Medical Center Dr. exit.
Continue to go straight onto Medical Center Drive.

Parking-Hospital Garage:

Follow Medical Center Drive to Westpark St. Turn Left onto Westpark St.
The Hospitals Parking Garage is located on your left.

