

Orthoptic Department

Brown's Syndrome

What is Brown's Syndrome?

Brown's Syndrome is an eye movement abnormality that can occur in either one or both eyes. It can make looking upwards and inwards difficult and can give the appearance of a squint when looking in certain directions.

In the majority of cases, Brown's Syndrome is congenital (from birth) but there are some occasions where it can occur later on in life.

What causes it?

Brown's Syndrome is related to one of the six muscles that control eye movements, called the **superior oblique**.

There are different ideas as to why this problem occurs at birth. One idea is that the muscle is too short, and therefore doesn't work as it should. Another idea is that the surrounding tissue to the muscle is abnormal, and prevents the muscle from moving upwards. Brown's Syndrome is also occasionally seen within families, suggesting that there may be a genetic link.

Does it affect vision?

Vision and binocular vision (3D vision) typically develop normally in Brown's Syndrome. It may cause some double vision when looking in certain directions, or sometimes a head tilt. A head tilt is used to compensate for the muscle imbalance and help stop the double vision.



What is the treatment?

Most patients do not need any treatment for Brown's Syndrome. As your child gets older and taller, they don't tend to look upwards as much and therefore it becomes a lot less noticeable. In a few cases it has been known to resolve by itself.

If Brown's Syndrome causes a significant head tilt or double vision, a surgical option may be considered to prevent neck pain/problems and relieve symptoms.

We hope that this leaflet helps you understand the condition and treatment options available. If you have any questions, or would like further information, please contact us on the telephone number below.

Telephone number: 024 7696 6520

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this Information in another language or format, please contact 024 76 96 6520 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

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