

Orthoptic Department

Diplopia (Double Vision)




What is Diplopia

Diplopia is the medical term for double vision

What is Double Vision?

The eyes should work together as a pair. Where they are not working together, this can cause a squint which can lead to seeing two images instead of one. Double vision can be constant or intermittent.

The double vision may be:

- Side by side (horizontally displaced) 
- One on top of the other (Vertically displaced) 
- A mixture of the two 



Headaches and eye strain may also occur.

Closing or covering one eye usually relieves double vision.



Patient Information

What causes double vision?

- Muscle Imbalance
- Eye muscles or the nerves supplying the muscles being weakened or damaged

This could be due to:

- Diabetes
- Increased blood pressure
- Thyroid problems
- Strokes
- Other neurological disorders

How is Double Vision Treated?

Treatment depends on the cause but can include:

- Exercises
- Prisms (temporary or permanent)
- Covering one lens of glasses
- Surgery
- Botox
- Given time the double vision may resolve completely

Separate leaflets on treatment options are available once your treatment has been discussed

Driving

Having double vision prevents you from driving and you are legally obliged to inform the DVLA (Driver and Vehicle License Agency) and your insurers.

Patient Information

For further information please visit: www.gov.uk/diplopia-and-driving

Or contact DVLA by post:

Drivers Medical Group

DVLA

Swansea

SA99 1DF

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact the Orthoptic department on 024 7696 6521 (or the Orthoptic department at the Hospital of St Cross, Rugby on 01788 663219) and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

To give feedback on this leaflet please email feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk

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