

# Duane's Syndrome

information for parents and guardians



Also known as Duane retraction syndrome, this is a condition that is congenital (present from birth) which affects the eye movements of one or both eyes. The left eye is most commonly affected and females are more commonly affected than males. It can be difficult to detect in very young infants.

## What causes Duane's syndrome?

It is generally thought that the most likely cause of Duane's syndrome, is a 'miss-wiring' of the nerves which control eye movement. This means that the eye muscles don't receive the correct signals to move the eyes from side to side.

Alternatively it may be caused by a problem with the eye muscles, which may be thin or tight and less elastic than usual.

## You may notice:

- Limited movement of one or both eyes usually when looking on horizontal gaze (side to side eye movements)
- Changes to the eyelids
  - the affected eye lid often widen on looking to one side
  - the affected eye lid narrow on looking to the other side
- The head turn to one side

- The eye retract back when looking to the side
- A squint when looking straight ahead
- Reduced vision.

## Management

- You will be observed in the orthoptic department to monitor vision and eye movements
  - in some cases surgical management may be required
  - the majority of cases have no vision problems and do not need any treatment
- Most people with Duane's syndrome do not have any symptoms due to turning their head to one side
  - it may be helpful to inform your child's school teacher if they do this
  - where your child is seated in the classroom may need adjusted
- The condition remains stable and will not get worse.