

Pseudostrabismus

This material will help you understand pseudostrabismus.

What is pseudostrabismus?

Strabismus is the term for eye misalignment. Pseudostrabismus refers to the false appearance of eye misalignment. Children with pseudostrabismus often have large inner eyelid folds and flat nose bridges. This makes a child have less white space between the colored iris and the inner eyelid. This causes the eyes to look like they are crossed even though they are aligned normally. Although strabismus can lead to permanent vision loss if not treated early, pseudostrabismus is harmless.

How is pseudostrabismus diagnosed?

It can be difficult to tell the difference between pseudostrabismus and strabismus without an eye exam. It is very important that your child is evaluated by an eye doctor. An eye doctor can diagnose pseudostrabismus by flashing light over your child's eyes. The light should reflect at the same spot on each pupil (the black area in the center of the eye). If it reflects a different spots, this can be a sign of true strabismus. Your child's eye doctor may also do a cover test and a complete eye exam to confirm the results. Children with strabismus often have other conditions like amblyopia or "lazy eye" or refractive errors (like farsightedness).

How is pseudostrabismus treated?

Your child does not need any treatment. As your child grows up, his/her face facial features will change. This will likely improve the appearance of eye misalignment.

For more information, scan these codes with your smartphone or visit the websites listed.



<http://www.aapos.org/terms/conditions/88>

Disclaimer: This document contains information and/or instructional materials developed by the University of Michigan Health System (UMHS) for the typical patient with your condition. It may include links to online content that was not created by UMHS and for which UMHS does not assume responsibility. It does not replace medical advice from your health care provider because your experience may differ from that of the typical patient. Talk to your health care provider if you have any questions about this document, your condition or your treatment plan.

Author: Kristin Maurer, BA, MPH candidate
Reviewers: Shreya Prabhu, MD and Gale Oren, MILS

Unless otherwise noted, Patient Education by [University of Michigan Health System](#) is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License](#).

Last Revised 4/2015