This material will help you understand hypertropia, its causes and how it is treated.

**What is hypertropia?**
Hypertropia occurs when one eye turns upward. It is a form of strabismus, or eye misalignment. The eye may turn all the time or only part of the time making hypertropia constant or intermittent. Sometimes stress or fatigue can worsen misalignment.

**What causes hypertropia?**
Hypertropia can be caused by an imbalance of muscle tone between the two eyes. Some common causes of hypertropia in children are:

- **Fourth nerve palsy** – Hypertropia can be caused by a weak fourth cranial nerve either from birth or from a secondary cause such as trauma. This nerve controls one muscle which helps move the eye downward. When this nerve is not working properly, the eye is unable to move down and remains higher than the other eye.

- **Brown syndrome** – In Brown's syndrome, hypertropia occurs from a restrictive effect on the muscle, causing difficulty in elevation of the affected eye.

- **Trauma** – Hypertropia may occur after many different types of trauma to the head or the eyes.

**How is hypertropia treated?**
Treatment for hypertropia varies with age and cause. Glasses and patching may be required to help a child's eyes develop properly. Sometimes, surgery is necessary to realign the eyes.