

*Columbus Ophthalmology Associates*  
**STRABISMUS**

**What is strabismus?**

There are six muscles which help keep the eyes in proper alignment. If one or more of the muscles becomes weak, the eyes will begin to point in different directions. The brain controls the eye muscles, which keep the eyes properly aligned. It is critical that the muscles function together for the brain to interpret the image from each eye as single. Eye misalignment is called strabismus and occurs quite often in childhood, but even adults can have ocular misalignment.

**Signs and symptoms**

- Turned or crossed eye
- Head tilt or turn
- Squinting
- Double vision (in some cases)

**What is esotropia and exotropia?**

Esotropia is a type of strabismus where the eye turns inward towards the nose. When the eyes turn outward, the condition is known as exotropia.

**What treatment is available for strabismus?**

In some cases of Esotropia, only glasses are needed to align the eyes. In other cases, eye muscle exercises may be helpful in treating the problem. In adults, minor misalignments can be overcome with prism ground into the spectacles.

If surgery is performed, the affected muscle can be surgically repositioned to straighten the eye. It is completed as an out-patient surgery under general anesthesia. The risk of surgery is extremely low but can include infection, an anesthesia reaction, and the most common side effect inadequate alignment. Recent surgical advances provide a high percentage of successful results.

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