

Paediatric information: 8-12 year olds

Brown syndrome

Brown syndrome means that one eye cannot move upwards very well, particularly when looking towards the nose.

What causes it?

We don't know for sure what causes it. There are six muscles on the outside of each eyeball which allow us to turn the eye in all the directions we want to look. One of the muscles is very long and it changes direction before it attaches onto the eyeball. In Brown syndrome, this muscle may be too short or may get stuck where it turns.

How the world looks to you

For most people, Brown syndrome does not cause any problem with their eyesight. A few people may notice double vision (seeing two of things) some of the time.

How you look to the world

Most of the time, no-one can tell you have Brown syndrome, but if you try to look upwards, people may notice one eye moves more than the other. Some people with Brown syndrome hold their head in a different position in order to see.

How can the doctor tell?

The orthoptist and the doctor will be able to tell you have Brown syndrome simply by watching how your eyes move around.

Getting it sorted

You will need to come to the eye clinic from time to time to check you have good vision. Sometimes, we give you some glasses or, in young children, an eyepatch for a few hours a day, to help you see well.

Usually no other treatment is needed. In some children, the problem gets better on its own as they get older.

If the Brown syndrome causes a lot of problems, doctors can do an operation to make the eye move better but most people do not need this.

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Moorfields Direct telephone helpline

Phone: 020 7566 2345
Monday-Friday, 8.30am-9pm
Saturday, 9am-5pm
Information and advice on eye conditions and treatments from experienced ophthalmic-trained nurses.

Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

Phone: 020 7566 2324/ 020 7566 2325
Email: moorfields.pals@nhs.net
Moorfields' PALS team provides confidential advice and support to help you with any concerns you may have about the care we provide, guiding you through the different services available at Moorfields. The PALS team can also advise you on how to make a complaint.

Your right to treatment within 18 weeks

Under the NHS constitution, all patients have the right to begin consultant-led treatment within 18 weeks of being referred by their GP. Moorfields is committed to fulfilling this right, but if you feel that we have failed to do so, please contact our patient advice and liaison service (PALS) who will be able to advise you further (see above). For more information about your rights under the NHS constitution, visit www.nhs.uk/choiceinthenhs

