

## *Will it get better on its own?*

**No.** If left untreated the child may have permanently damaged sight which cannot be corrected when he or she is older.

## *Is there any treatment other than patching?*

All treatment for lazy eye involves covering the good eye to force the lazy eye to work harder. There are no operations to cure a lazy eye. Simply using the eye makes the sight improve.

## *How can I find out more about patching?*

Ask any of the eye care professionals involved with your child's treatment and they will be able to answer any specific questions you may have.

## *Tips?*

- **Encourage** ● **Persevere** ● **Make it fun**
- **Enlist support from others** ● **Keep them busy**
- **Reward good behaviour**

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# *Lazy Eye*

*This leaflet is designed to  
answer some common questions*



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## ***What is Lazy Eye?***

A lazy eye or amblyopia occurs when the sight of one or both eyes is under developed causing reduced vision.

## ***What causes Amblyopia?***

A squint is the most common reason for one eye to be amblyopic but it can also occur when one eye is more long or short sighted than the other.

## ***How do we treat Amblyopia?***

Amblyopia can be treated with glasses and/or patching. Glasses help by letting the eye focus properly but patching may also be needed.

## ***How does patching help my child's sight?***

The sight will improve if the child uses the eye more since it is lack of proper use that has caused it be lazy. By covering the good eye we force the lazy eye to work harder. If the child needs glasses then these should be used at the same time as patching.

## ***What should my child do when wearing the patch?***

Reading, drawing or playing with small toys are the best activities to encourage the eye to work harder. Your child may like to watch TV with the patch on but may need to sit closer to see properly. If your child's sight is very poor it is best to play with things that are big and bright so that they can be seen more easily.

## ***How much patching will my child need?***

This varies from child to child and depends on their age and how long the eye has been lazy. The orthoptist will see you regularly to monitor progress and will develop a treatment plan to suit you and the visual needs of your child.

## ***Does patching really work?***

Patching will only work if your child wears the patch as instructed. If started at an early age, patching is usually successful. Patching will only help your child's lazy eye and will not improve the squint.

Squints are treated with glasses and/or surgery.