

# PSEUDOSTRABISMUS

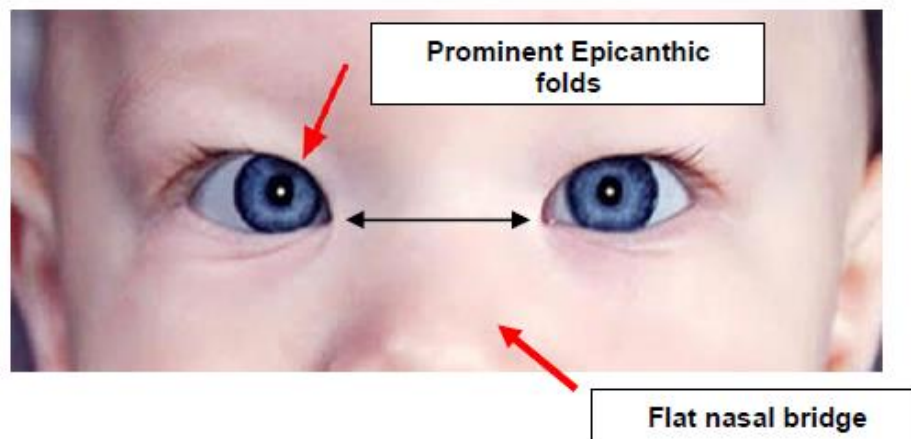
## WHAT IS A STRABISMUS?

A strabismus, also referred to as a 'squint', is a misalignment of the visual axes. This is where the eyes point in different directions i.e. in, out, up or down. It is particularly common in children, affecting approximately 2.1% of children in the UK population.

## PSEUDO-STRABISMUS VS TRUE STRABISMUS?

A pseudo-strabismus is the false appearance of an eye turning, when in fact the eyes are aligned. A pseudo-squint is often noticed in photographs if your baby's head is slightly turned, or if the photograph has been taken at an angle. Figure one shows an example of a pseudo-squint.

**Figure 1**



## WHAT CAN CAUSE A PSEUDO-STRABISMUS?

There are different physiological factors that can cause a pseudo-squint;

- Underdeveloped nasal bridge
- Epicanthic skin folds
- Heterochromia
- Wide or narrow gap between the eyes
- Eye/ eyelid shape
- Facial asymmetry

**DOES A PSEUDO-STRABISMUS REQUIRE TREATMENT?**

No treatment is required for a pseudo-squint. The appearance of the squint will improve as your baby grows. This is because the epicanthic folds become less prominent, and the nasal bridge becomes more developed pulling the skin away from around the inside of the eye.

Orthoptists are trained to detect squints through various clinical assessments. If the orthoptist can confirm a pseudo-squint, your child may still require regular follow-up appointments to monitor visual development and ensure there is no squint. A true strabismus can lead to permanent vision loss if left untreated. Therefore, it is important for the orthoptist to monitor your child's visual development. Your orthoptist will discuss whether a follow-up appointment is required.

**WHAT HAPPENS IF I HAVE CONCERNS AFTER BEING DISCHARGED?**

If you have concerns in the future, visit your GP or local optician who can refer you back into the eye service.

**CAN A TRUE STRABISMUS STILL DEVELOP?**

Your child can still develop a true squint later in life. This is because the visual system continues to develop until the age of 7 years. It is important to have annual glasses check, as an underlying prescription can cause a squint.

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

For more useful information on squints.

[www.squintclinic.com](http://www.squintclinic.com)

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

The information in this leaflet is for guidance purposes only and is not provided to replace professional clinical advice from a qualified practitioner.

**Your comments!**

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Please ask your nurse or doctor if you have any further questions.

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