



---

## Amblyopia in children

### What is amblyopia?

---

**Commonly known as “lazy eye”, it is a condition in which one or both eyes have reduced visual function, or even none at all.**

---

Early diagnosis and proper treatment can cure amblyopia. Simple orthoptic procedures can improve visual capacity, and in the vast majority of cases results are highly satisfactory. Generally associated with visual defects such as myopia, hyperopia, and astigmatism, amblyopia calls for a full eye examination in order to accurately ascertain the overall situation.

The crucial age in the development of the child's visual system is between 6 and 8 years old when timely action must be taken to ensure the fullest possible recovery of visual capacity.

### What are the causes?

Amblyopia has a range of possible causes, including strabismus, congenital visual abnormalities, anisometropia (the condition in which each eye has a different visual defect, e.g. myopia in one eye and hyperopia in the other), or when there is a difference of more than 4 dioptres between the two eyes.

# How to cure amblyopia

## Eye-patch

Patching, or covering the dominant eye with a patch, is one of the techniques used to improve the visual capacity of a child with amblyopia.

By stimulating the visual fixation and general activity of the lazy eye, this technique improves its acuity.

The patch must be worn when the child is active to force the lazy eye to look at and fix on objects as much as possible without the support of the stronger eye.

## Some precautions

The orthoptist's instructions and schedule can vary widely from child to child depending on the patient's condition, and must be followed carefully in order for the treatment to be as effective as possible.

The therapy must be carried through to the end, and every effort must be made to follow the schedule and the instructions for applying the patch that are given during the orthoptic examination.

The clinical diagnosis is given during the first examination. Follow-up examinations and diagnostic testing will assess the effectiveness of the treatment and the improvement of visual acuity.

## SERI Switzerland Eye Research Institute SA



Photo by F. Simonetti - Studio Camponovo archive.

Riva Paradiso 2  
CH-6900 Lugano-Paradiso  
T +41 (0)91 993 13 01  
F +41 (0)91 993 13 02  
[info@seri-lugano.ch](mailto:info@seri-lugano.ch)  
[www.seri-lugano.ch](http://www.seri-lugano.ch)

SEGUICI SU

