

Myopia in Childhood

Patient Information

Orthoptics



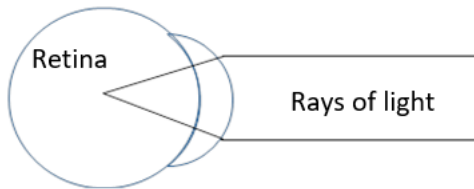
The Patient Information Leaflets page on the Trust website is available on the link:
<https://www.wwl.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets> or scan the QR code.

Author ID: EJB
Leaflet Ref: Orth 025
Version: 1
Leaflet title: Myopia in Childhood
Date Produced: August 2024
Expiry Date: August 2026

Our Values**People at
the Heart****Listen and
Involve****Kind and
Respectful****One
Team**

What is Myopia (short sightedness)?

Myopia, or short sightedness, occurs when the eye is too large, or overpowered. This causes the light to be focused in front of the retina (back of the eye). This means that vision is clear for objects close to the eye, but blurred when looking into the distance.



How is myopia treated in childhood?

Glasses are usually used to bring the image at the back of the eye into focus, but this can also be done using contact lenses

What causes myopia in childhood?

Myopia can happen in any child, but several factors can make a child more likely to develop myopia. These factors include:

- family history
- ethnic background (especially East Asian or South Asian)
- environment (spending a lot of time indoors)
- spending a lot of time reading or doing work up close

Why does myopia get worse?

It is most likely that the myopia will increase as your child grows, as the eye will also grow. This is often called myopia progression.

What is wrong with myopia progression?

The higher your child's prescription, the greater the risk there is of certain eye conditions when they are older. These conditions include glaucoma, cataracts, retinal detachment, and retinal degeneration.

What can I do now to reduce myopia progression?

Ensure your child:

- wears their up-to-date spectacles and has regular sight tests
- spends at least 90 minutes a day outside during daylight hours
- uses good natural lighting when reading or doing close work

- limits their time looking at screens
- limits their time spent doing reading or close work once schoolwork is complete

What else can be done to slow down myopia progression?

There is still research looking into the effectiveness of different treatments to slow down myopia progression.

These treatments include:

- multifocal soft contact lenses
- rigid contact lenses worn overnight (orthokeratology)
- specialist spectacle lenses
- atropine eye drops

Some treatments still under study are offered by high-street optometrists. These treatments do not cure or reduce myopia - they aim to slow down the rate at which it gets worse.

None of these treatments are currently approved and available for use on the NHS.

Useful websites

www.mykidsvision.org

Comments, Compliments or Complaints

The Patient Relations/Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Department provides confidential on the spot advice, information and support to patients, relatives, friends, and carers.

Contact Us

Tel: 01942 822376 (Monday to Friday 9am until 4pm)

The Patient Relations/PALS Manager
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary
Wigan Lane
Wigan
WN1 2NN

Ask 3 Questions

Become more involved in decisions about your healthcare. You may be asked to make choices about your treatment. To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions:

1. What are my options?
2. What are the positives and negatives of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?



How We Use Your Information

For details on how we collect, use, and store the information we hold about you, please see patient information leaflet, Ref. **Corp 006** How we use your information, this can be found on the Patient Information Leaflets page on the Trust website, see details on the front cover.

This leaflet is also available in audio, large print, Braille, and other languages upon request. For more information, please ask in the department/ward.

© Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.
All rights reserved. Not to be reproduced in whole or in part without the permission of the copyright owner.

Call 111 first when it's less urgent than 999.



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

GOLD AWARD 2021

Proudly serving those who serve.

Phone: 0808 802 1212

Text: 81212

www.veteransgateway.org.uk

