

A Guide to Patching

Information for Parent or Carer

Orthoptic Service

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Why does your child need a patch?

The Orthoptist has found that your child sees better with one eye than the other. This is known as a lazy eye or amblyopia. This is because the brain has not received the right information, probably because of a squint or a need for glasses and the vision has not developed normally.

How does the patch work?

The patch covers the better eye making the brain look with the lazy eye. This will usually make the lazy eye see better.

How is the patch worn?

The patch is placed on the face, over the good eye. If your child wears glasses, these **must** be worn over the patch. The Orthoptist will give you a supply of patches that should last until your next appointment. Your orthoptist may give you a fabric patch which is worn over the glasses.

How long is it worn each day?

This is different for everyone. This depends on the age of your child and how poor the vision is. The poorer the vision the longer the patch time each day. Your Orthoptist will suggest a suitable length of time to aim for. This may include school time. Please talk to your child's teacher about this.

How long will the treatment last for?

The aim of the patch treatment is for the two eyes to see equally. The length of time taken to achieve this is different for everyone, and also depends on how well the patch is worn and how poor the vision is. Therefore, we are unable to say exactly how long the treatment will last for. Your child will attend regular appointments (usually every 6-8 weeks) whilst on treatment and the patch will be reviewed by the Orthoptist at each visit. Once the best vision is reached, the length of patch time is gradually reduced.

How will the patch affect my child?

At first, your child may be unhappy. They are not used to using the lazy eye. As the vision gets better, this will get easier.

Your child may need extra supervision for example playing outside or crossing roads as they will not be able to see as well as normal.

They may need more time for their school work. You should inform your child's teacher of any treatment.

Occasionally the skin may develop a rash around the eye. If this happens, stop the patch and contact your Orthoptist.

What can I do to help?

- Be positive!
- Praise your child when the patch is worn.
- Star/sticker charts are a good idea to encourage your child to wear the patch.
- Distract them and take their mind off the patch.
- Small detailed tasks, e.g. computer games, reading, writing, colouring or jigsaws can help the vision to develop quicker.
- Attend appointments

If you run out of patches please contact the Orthoptic department for more.

For more information about children's visual development, please see our "Visual Development" leaflet.

If you wish to speak to someone by phone please contact the Orthoptic Department:

Wigan Health Centre

Telephone Number 01942 822310

Outpatient Department, Leigh Infirmary

Telephone Number 01942 264095

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 to 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 pros and cons 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 take a look at our “how we use your information” leaflet which can be found on the Trust website: https://www.wwl.nhs.uk/patient_information/leaflets/

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

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Call 1 1 1 first when it's less urgent than 9 9 9.