



BIOS | **BRITISH AND IRISH
ORTHOPTIC SOCIETY**

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The fact that the orthoptists understand what is happening to my eyes and can explain it to me makes everything far easier to come to terms with and is not so frightening. I know what the next steps are, what to expect and can therefore be prepared for what could have been a very uncertain future.



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**Child with
potential
vision loss**

**Teenager with
squint (strabismus)**

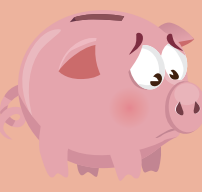
**Adult with
brain
tumour**

**Older
adult after
stroke**

Without orthoptist



Patient outcome:
If undetected in the first few years of life, delayed treatment will prevent improvement in ability to see



Economic cost:
Reduced vision through school years negatively impacts education, decreasing job prospects



Social cost:
Reduced vision can affect a child's concentration, their ability to learn and play, and ultimately their life satisfaction



Patient outcome:
Unlikely to receive necessary surgical correction. Other professionals likely to put emphasis on refractive, medical condition of the eye



Economic cost:
Less success in education can lead to significantly reduced chances of employment



Social cost:
Can lead to low self-esteem, poorer quality social interactions and potential mental health issues



Patient outcome:
Delayed diagnosis can lead to delays in treatment as well as increased visual field loss and blurred vision



Economic cost:
Extended time off work and potentially increased carer costs due to disability



Social cost:
Loss of independence and reliance on others. Possibility of depression due to additional symptoms and lack of understanding of eye problems



Patient outcome:
Not addressing visual problems reduces the effectiveness of rehabilitation. Increased risk of falls, depression and low mood



Economic cost:
Reduced vision through increased costs of longer hospital stays and increased care needs



Social cost:
Loss of independence and reduced social and leisure activities. Possibility of social isolation

With orthoptist



Patient outcome:
Identification and treatment at a young age enables normal visual development



Economic benefit:
Good vision will enable a child to fulfil their educational potential, maximising their opportunity to contribute economically



Social benefit:
Good vision enhances a child's ability to develop social relationships with peers, enabling full participation in learning and playing



Patient outcome:
Validation of importance of issues, often leading to corrective surgery



Economic benefit:
Increased confidence enabling higher educational achievement and improved job prospects



Social benefit:
More rounded individual with increased self-confidence, an improvement in social interactions and greater quality of life



Patient outcome:
More immediate access to treatment and more rapid adaptation to field loss with increased understanding



Economic benefit:
More likely to maintain independence, returning to work and lowering care requirements.



Social benefit:
Reduced chance of depression due to reduction in the impact of symptoms, and a greater chance of maintaining involvement in society



Patient outcome:
Addressing visual problems increases likelihood of effective rehabilitation and reduces the risk of falls



Economic benefit:
Reduction in length of hospital stay and greater likelihood of returning home



Social benefit:
Engagement in community and leisure activities. Greater independence, including increased likelihood of returning to work and driving

www.orthoptics.org.uk