



BIOS | BRITISH AND IRISH
ORTHOPTIC SOCIETY

Fancy a career in Healthcare?

Ever thought about Orthoptics?



See overleaf to find out more ...

What is an Orthoptist?

Orthoptists are university-trained, allied health care practitioners who specialise in the assessment of visual function, particularly in children and those with communication difficulties.

They are experts in understanding how the eyes move and work together and also how neurological defects affect how we see.

An orthoptist assesses, diagnoses, treats and monitors a variety of eye disorders. An orthoptist will work autonomously and as part of the eye care team. In addition many orthoptists will work in multi professional health, educational or social care teams.

Who should see an Orthoptist?

All orthoptists see patients presenting with

- Double vision
- Blurred vision
- Amblyopia (sometimes known as a lazy eye)
- Strabismus (misalignment of the eyes)
- Refractive errors
- Ptosis (drooping of the eye lid)
- Nystagmus (uncontrolled constant eye movements)
- Ocular head postures

With additional training and experience orthoptists may specialise in the care of patients with:

- Neurological conditions such as stroke, traumatic brain injury, brain tumours, Multiple sclerosis & degenerative conditions e.g parkinsons disease, inflammatory & neuromuscular conditions
- Visual defects in association with learning disabilities
- Visual processing disorders
- Low vision and visual field loss

To address the medical ophthalmology workforce shortage, orthoptists have developed extended ophthalmic skills and knowledge and see patients for:

- Glaucoma monitoring
- Medical retina treatments and review (injections)
- IIH (idiopathic intracranial hypertension) monitoring
- Botulinum toxin injections for blepharospasm
- Electro diagnostic testing
- Surgery – minor surgical procedures & assisting in theatre



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