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Research Supporting Amblyopia Treatment

Amblyopia, commonly known as “lazy eye,” is a visual development disorder where early treatment is critical for improving outcomes. Although not an exhaustive list, this document includes key research findings regarding amblyopia treatment.

Refractive Adaptation

Vision improvement with glasses can take up to 18 weeks with good full time wear. Reduced vision beyond this may be amblyopia.

Source: Stewart (2004), doi: 10.1136/bjo.2004.044214

Effectiveness of Patching

Patching significantly improves vision in amblyopia, especially when children follow the treatment, but the success decreases with age.

Source: Papageorgiou et al. (2019), doi: 10.1007/s00417-019-04254-w

Alternative Treatments

Atropine drops are a good alternative to patching.

Source: Li et al. (2007), doi: 10.1002/14651858.cd006460

PEDIG (2002), doi:10.1001/archopht.120.3.268

Duration of Patching for Mild Amblyopia

Two hours of daily patching achieves similar outcomes to six hours for mild amblyopia

Source: Repka et al. (2003), doi: 10.1001/archopht.121.5.603

Duration of Patching for Severe Amblyopia

Six hours of patching per day is as effective as full-time patching for dense amblyopia.

Source: Holmes et al. (2003), doi: 10.1016/j.ophtha.2003.08.001

Patient Wellbeing

Parental feedback helps improve treatment and compliance.

Source: Holmes et al. (2008), doi: 10.1016/j.jaapos.2008.04.017

For further information and resources, scan the QR code below or visit orthoptics.org.uk/wepatch.