

Patching Treatment for Amblyopia

Patching Therapy has been proven to be an effective method to increase vision in patients with amblyopia. The patch is placed over the "normal seeing" eye (the one with the better vision) to make the "poorer seeing" eye work.

Which Eye do I patch?

How much time do I patch?

_____ Date of Exam

Right Eye Left Eye Full Time All waking hours

Alternating Right & Left Part Time _____ waking hours

How do I put the patch on? The patch should be placed directly on the skin, not on glasses. The patch is often more comfortable if "tenting" so it does not touch the eyelashes. There are several brands of patches and two sizes. Use the brand and size that is most comfortable for your child.

What if the patch causes skin irritation? Rotating the patch in different directions will help eliminate skin irritation and "break outs". The patch can be adhered in any direction, just make sure it covers the entire eye. Avoid removing the patch more than necessary. You can also try a different brand of patches. Each type has different adhesives that may be better on your child's skin.

Milk of Magnesia can be used to protect the skin. Apply liquid Milk of Magnesia around the eye in the area where the patch sticks with a cotton ball. Avoid getting the Milk of Magnesia in the eye. Allow it to dry, then apply the eye patch.

Before removing the patch place a cool compress over the patch for 1-2 minutes. This helps to loosen the adhesive tape and provide an easier non-stick removal. Petroleum jelly can also be rubbed into the adhesive portion of the patch. Allow it to soak for 15 minutes.

How can my child function at school with the good eye patched? Your child should be allowed to hold reading material as close as they wish. If your child is having difficulty seeing the board ask the teacher to move them up front.

How long will I need to patch? Patching may continue for months or even years, depending on the age of the child and the severity of the amblyopia.

What should I do the day of the appointment? We recommend that the patch not be worn on the day of the appointment.

What if I need to cancel an appointment? If you can not keep an appointment please let us know as soon as possible. Patching therapy is time dependent. It is extremely important to monitor the vision in the patched eye. When you call to reschedule, please remind us that you are patching; this will help expedite the rescheduling process.

If you have any other questions about patching for amblyopia, please do not hesitate to call us.