

**Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus**  
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**Frequently Asked Questions about Strabismus Surgery in Adults**

**Is Strabismus Surgery Cosmetic?**

Strabismus is a condition in which the eyes point in different directions. It is commonly termed 'misaligned eyes', 'wandering eye', 'eye muscle problem', 'crossed eye', or 'lazy eye'. Strabismus repair is reconstructive/restoration surgery aligning the eyes as they are supposed to be, it is not "cosmetic". Thus, insurance should cover the expense of diagnosis and treatment. However, the issue of insurance coverage is controlled by individual insurance policies. Parents should therefore verify coverage with their insurer.

**Will I be awake for the surgery?**

The procedure will be done under general anesthesia. You will be asleep for the entire procedure.

**Will I need patches over my eyes after surgery?**

No, you will not need to be patched following surgery.

**Does the eye need to be removed to get to the muscles?**

No, the eye do not need to be removed to get to the muscles. The muscles are attached to the white part of the eye and are located under a thin, tissue paper-like membrane that covers the eyeball (conjunctiva). The incisions will be made here. There will be no incisions in the skin.

**Will I have double vision after surgery?**

Double vision may occur after straightening eyes that have been out of alignment for many years. However, it is generally a temporary problem, lasting only a few weeks until the brain adapts to the new eye position.

**Will there be sutures that have to be removed?**

No, sutures are absorbable and will not need to be removed following surgery.

**Will any medication be needed following surgery?**

You will be given a prescription for antibiotic drops and ointment to be used after surgery.

**Will I be in a lot of pain?**

Discomfort can vary with the individual. Most of the discomfort after eye muscle surgery is a feeling of something in the eye, which last for several days. Over-the-counter pain medication such as Tylenol is often enough to reduce this discomfort. Following surgery, an ice pack should be applied to the eyes to reduce swelling. Most patients can be back to full activity in several days.

**How much time will I have to take off work?**

Usually, patients take a week off from work following eye muscle surgery.