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What is Amblyopia?

- Amblyopia or lazy eye is defined as the reduction of best corrected visual acuity of one or both eyes that cannot be attributed exclusively to a structural abnormality of the eye.
- It develops during childhood and results in the normal cortical visual pathway development.





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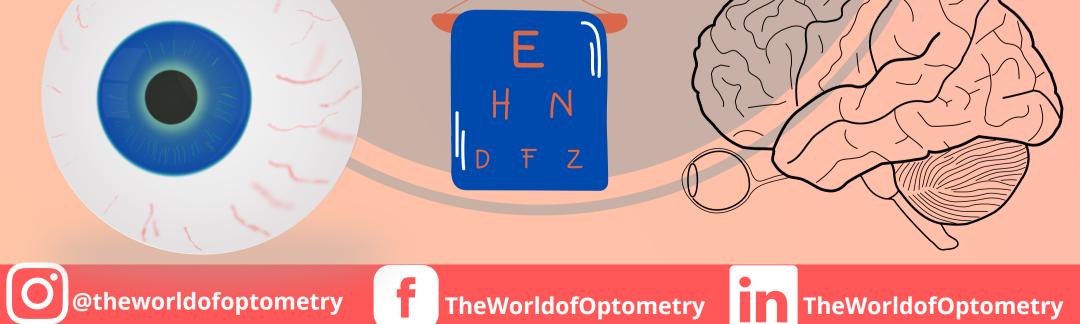
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Amblyopia (G)

- In Optometry, it is clinically defined as a difference in best corrected visual acuity of 2 or more lines of acuity between the eyes.
- Visual acuity and contrast sensitivity are also reduced in amblyopia due to abnormal processing of the primary visual cortex.





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- The prevalence of amblyopia worldwide is approximately 1%-5%.
- There are around 19 million children visually impaired out of which 12 million are impaired due to uncorrected refractive errors and amblyopia according to WHO estimation.
- A child's vision develops in the first few years of life, so it is important to treat amblyopia as early as possible.
- There are many causes for lazy eye like strabismus, refractive errors, any internal pathology such as cataract, retinoblastoma (childhood eye tumour), and ptosis (drooping of the eyelids).









- Treatment options include penalization or patching of the sound eye to stimulate the amblyopic eye in daily activities, complementing with stimulation exercises and light therapy.
- Amblyopia is more responsive to treatment among children younger than 7 years of age although the average treatment response in children of 7 to 13 years of age also showed marked response to treatment.
- Treatment of older individuals may be successful as the plasticity of the visual system may extend into adulthood.

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- Treatment that targets suppressive interactions within the visual cortex may improve both monocular and binocular visual functions in children and adults with amblyopia.
- In any disease present, early diagnosis and prompt treatment gives better prognosis.



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