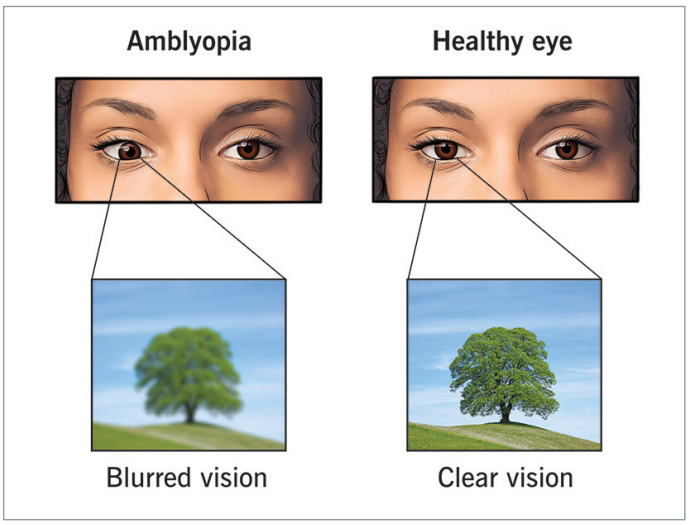
WHAT IS THE TREATMENT?

Strabismus is often treated by surgically adjusting the tension on the eye muscles. The goal of surgery is to get the eyes close enough to be perfectly straight that it is hard to see any residual deviation. Surgery usually improves the conditions though the results are rarely perfect. Results are generally better in young children. Surgery can be done with local anesthesia in some adults but requires general anesthesia in children, usually outpatient. In some cases, prisms and Botox injections of the eye muscles are alternatives to surgery. Eye exercises rarely help.

AMBLYOPIA

WHAT IS AMBLYOPIA?

If left untreated, strabismus in children can lead to amblyopia or a "lazy eye." Children learn to suppress double vision so effectively that the deviating eye gradually loses sight. It may be necessary to patch the good eye and wear glasses before treating the strabismus. Amblyopia does not occur when alternate eyes deviate, and adults do not develop amblyopia.



WHAT IS THE TREATMENT?

Amblyopia treatment corrects when one eye sees a blurred image which the brain shuts off or suppresses. When caught early, amblyopia treatment, often called lazy eye treatment, can successfully restore functional sight to the amblyopic eye.

CATARACTS IN CHILDREN

WHAT ARE CHILDHOOD CATARACTS?

Cataracts sometimes appear in children at birth in one or both eyes. They look like a white or gray spot in the pupil. Cataracts may be inherited, develop due to an infection, a disease acquired before birth, or result of an injury. In most cases, there is no specific cause found.

WHAT IS THE TREATMENT?

If a severe cataract is not removed quickly, the child may lose their vision permanently because of amblyopia (lazy eye). The better eye may also need to be patched. Mild cataracts may not need treatment.

The focusing power of the original lens, removed during cataract surgery, must be replaced to restore vision. Intraocular lenses (IOLs), permanent plastic lenses placed inside the eye, are implanted in older children like adults. In infants, IOLs are controversial because the eyes grow and change their prescriptions during the first few years of life. Many surgeons prefer contact lenses or even glasses for younger children.

Regardless of the type of correction, children need follow-up exams to avoid possible complications, including glaucoma, scar tissue forming in the pupil, and amblyopia. Often, children will need eye muscle surgery because the eye turns or crosses.

Despite these problems, cataracts are the single most treatable cause of childhood blindness. After surgery, most children can see the blackboard in school (20/60-20/100). While some do not do as well, many children will see almost normally with appropriate correction.

COMPREHENSIVE EYE CARE

GENEVA EYE CLINIC

Learn more at our website: **GenevaEye.com**

WHAT IS COMPREHENSIVE EYE CARE?

To obtain your best-corrected vision, no matter your needs, the medical team at Geneva Eye Clinic performs many different tests. A technician will complete the first part of your comprehensive exam, including tests for visual acuity, eye pressure, and refraction. Next, the Ophthalmologist will test for common eye diseases and assess how your eyes work together. Follow-up appointments for recommended treatment may be necessary.

The Process

Your pupils will be dilated (widen your pupils) with eye drops to view the back of your eyes, the retina, and optic nerve. The dilating drops take approximately 30 minutes to take full effect. Your eyes may remain dilated for 4 to 6 hours. You will be sensitive to bright light and possibly blurry for near vision. We have disposable sunglasses available for your comfort. You may wish to have a driver with you, especially if this is the first time your eyes will be dilated.

The doctor will perform the rest of your exam after your eyes are fully dilated. This usually entails using a microscope called a slit lamp to view the front structures of your eyes and bright lights to view the retina and optic nerves. While potentially uncomfortable, it will not harm your eyes. The doctor will discuss the exam findings with you and any treatment plans if needed.

How long does it take?

A comprehensive eye exam takes approximately two hours. Please anticipate your visit to require this length of time.

WHAT ARE THE COMPONENTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE EYE EXAM?

Visual Acuity Test

Part of every eye exam, the eye chart test allows the doctor to measure your ability to see at varying distances.

Refraction

A refraction checks the prescription of your eyes and can be used to obtain glasses. A refraction test might be included even if you do not wish to get new glasses. Performing refraction shows the doctor your best-corrected vision and the best vision you can attain. A decrease in visual acuity can be the first sign that something is wrong. Knowing your best-corrected vision can help the doctor monitor changes in eye conditions or help to decide when cataract surgery is necessary. For children, especially preverbal children, the eye doctor will use additional expertise to perform this specialized measurement, whether or not the child ultimately requires glasses.

Tonometry

This instrument measures pressure within the eye: A high-pressure reading could be a sign of glaucoma. Before the test, numbing drops are placed in the eyes. The numbing drops do not affect your vision. In most cases, it is not necessary to measure eye pressure in children.

Slit Lamp Exam

The slit lamp is used primarily to view the eye's anterior (front) structures, such as the iris, lens, and cornea. It is a microscope with a light attached, allowing examination of the eye under high magnification. Special lenses also examine the vitreous and the back of the eye.

Fundus Exam

The fundus exam consists of using a bright light to visualize the back structures of the eye, the retina, and optic nerve, through a dilated pupil. The eye is the only body part to see blood vessels without surgery. The doctor will check the health of your eyes and look for changes consistent with diabetes, macular degeneration, glaucoma, or other diseases.

Consultation Exams

A consultation exam is more extensive than a comprehensive eye exam and typically lasts several hours. Usually, another physician has referred you to diagnose and treat a specific condition that they don't specialize in or treat themselves. An in-depth health history, including family members, will be obtained to aid in the diagnosis. Additional special testing may be performed in the office, and labs or x-rays may be ordered. Communication with your primary care doctor or referring doctor may be necessary to coordinate your care efficiently.

WHAT ARE ADDITIONAL TESTS?

These tests are only performed when indicated.

Visual Field Test

This test enables the doctor to determine if there is a loss of peripheral (side) vision, indicating glaucoma or neuro-ophthalmic conditions.

Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT)

OCT is a crucial tool for diagnosing and managing conditions such as macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, retinal vein occlusion, and glaucoma. This test uses a beam of light to view the layers of the retina.

Fundus Photography

It is used in ophthalmology as a form of documentation the doctor uses to compare your eye at the current exam versus previous exams. This is helpful with glaucoma to monitor the size and shape of the optic nerves. It is also beneficial to look for any changes in a nevus (freckle in the retina) that could be significant over time.

Fluorescein Angiogram (FA)

Fluorescein Angiography helps your doctor see what is happening in the circulatory system of your retina, highlighting any abnormalities that may be present. A dye is injected into a vein in your arm. As the dye enters the blood vessels, photographs are taken of the back of your eye. These photos will help the doctor see many things, such as abnormal blood vessels and inadequate circulation areas. This procedure is performed in the office. Your eyes will be dilated. We recommend having someone drive you home from your appointment.

WHAT ARE THE COMPONENTS OF GLASSES AND CONTACT LENS EXAMS?

Before being assessed for glasses or contact lenses, you will need to have a comprehensive eye examination to ensure that your eyes are healthy.

Eyeglasses Exams

Careful measurements, along with refraction, assist the doctor in deciding your prescription. Please bring glasses, reading glasses, or contacts to your appointment if you currently wear them.

Low Vision Exams

During a low vision evaluation, a patient is assessed for aids to enhance remaining vision after a loss due to such conditions as macular degeneration, glaucoma, or other ocular diseases. When conventional glasses do not meet the patient's visual needs, various optical and non-optical devices are assessed, ranging from simple optical magnifiers to telescopic glasses or electronic magnifiers. Even though low vision aids do not replace lost vision, they can improve independence and your quality of life. It is essential for patients coming in for a low vision exam to bring all their glasses and vision devices.

Contact Lens Exams

Before being fit with contact lenses, you will need to have a comprehensive eye examination to ensure that your eyes are healthy. Careful measurements assist the doctor in deciding which lenses may be right for you. If you wear contacts lenses, please wear them to your appointment, bring your glasses and any information about your contacts such as the prescription or boxes.

Contact Lens Fitting Exam

Contact Lens Fitting Exam is for the first-time contact lens wearer. This exam will take more time due to instruction and training on insertion and removal of the lenses and reviewing lens care systems.

Contact Lens Refit Exam

Contact Lens Refit Exam is for current contact lens wearers that may want or need another type of contact lens. Several lenses may be fit at this exam, and training is rarely required. Specialty contact lenses for astigmatism and keratoconus are available, along with multifocal contact lenses.