

EYE FEATURES IN NOONAN SYNDROME

Eye features of Noonan Syndrome had received very little attention in the medical literature, but now have been part of the research carried out with families from the support group.

There are a number of problems reported

Ptosis This is the “droopiness” of the eyelid. It is often most marked in the first few years of life and will improve with time. However if a child with ptosis has to tilt their head back to look ahead then it is causing significant problems and should be assessed for surgery. It is also appropriate to consider surgery for cosmetic reasons if the ptosis does not resolve. The operation is fairly specialist but with appropriate surgery the problem can be successfully corrected.

Accommodation defects Children with Noonan syndrome are more likely to need glasses. This may present with a squint or may be picked up on screening. It is important that their eyes are checked regularly and especially if they are reporting any school problems. If there is a problem with the focus of the eye such as short sight or myopia this can be corrected with a prescription for the correct glasses.

Occasionally the treatment of a squint will not be fully corrected by glasses and surgical treatment will be required to get a better position of the eyes.

Corneal nerves Sometimes on examination of the eyes the specialist will notice the presence of some nerve fibres on the surface of the cornea. They do not cause symptoms and require no treatment