Marcus Gunn (Jaw Winking) Syndrome

Bedfordshire Children's Eye Services
What is Marcus Gunn Syndrome?
This condition is usually present from birth, and usually affects one eye. It sometimes runs in families.

The causes of Marcus Gunn Syndrome
This condition occurs when the third cranial nerve, which normally supplies messages to the upper eye lid, also sends messages to the jaw muscles.

Features of Marcus Gunn Syndrome
The child will have one slightly droopy eye lid (Ptosis) which tends to go up and down when the child is eating/sucking. The affected eyelid goes up when the jaw is opened and moved to the opposite side.

How will it affect my child?
If the droopy eye lid covers over the pupil it can reduce the vision in the affected eye due to lack of visual stimulation. This may need to be treated by the Orthoptist. As the child becomes older they may avoid chewing on the affected side so that the ‘winking’ becomes less obvious.

Treatment
If the droopy eyelid is affecting the vision of the affected eye an operation to lift the eyelid can be performed. Sometimes this involves surgery to both eyes to maintain a similar appearance of both eyelids.

If the droopy eye lid is causing reduced vision in the affected eye then glasses and/or an eye patch over the good eye may also be needed.

If you have any other queries regarding the treatment of your child’s eyes, please discuss these with the Orthoptist.
For further information about this service contact:

Community Eye Service
Enhanced Service Centre
Bedford Health Village
3 Kimbolton Road
Bedford, MK40 2NT
Tel: 01234 897400 (Main Reception)
Tel: 01234 897445 (Eye Service Administrator)

Orthoptic Clinic
Liverpool Road Health Centre
9 Mersey Place
Liverpool Road
Luton, LU1 1HH
Tel: 01582 708155

If you have any compliments about this service or suggestions for improvements, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service on 0300 131 1000 (charges may apply depending on your network) or email: ccs-tr.pals@nhs.net.

For free, confidential health advice and information 24 hours a day, 365 days a year please contact NHS 111.

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