Eye Condition Snippet

Condition Name: Sixth Nerve Palsy

Description: Sixth Nerve Palsy is associated with a dysfunction of the sixth cranial nerve which is responsible for allowing the eye to turn out. This causes esotropia, where the eye turns in. The result is double vision (diplopia) in adults. Children are not as affected with diplopia because their brains can turn off the double image. The eye is still turned in however, so amblyopia (reduced vision in one eye) is possible, as the brain shuts down the signal from the affected eye. The condition commonly occurs in one eye only, but it can also occur in both.

Effects on Vision: The main effect is double vision. It is more noticeable at far point fixation, than at near point. It is often reported to improve with time (maximum improvement occurs in the first 6 months). Often patching is prescribed to strengthen the affected eye. Patching will result in monocular vision (one eye only) and it will negatively affect depth perception.

Educational implications: Preferential seating is recommended so that the student’s straight eye provides visual access to a maximum amount of the classroom. Students will often exhibit eccentric viewing habits (head tilt or turning slightly away from the speaker) in order to maximize binocular vision and reduce the double vision. This should be accepted and not be associated with inattention.