Strabismus is a visual defect in which the eyes are misaligned and point in different directions. One eye may be looking straight ahead, but the other may be turning inward, outward, upward or downward. This may be constant or it may come and go. There may be times when the straight eye turns and the turning eye straightens.

Strabismus is a very common condition, especially in children. It occurs equally in males and females and may run in families. Strabismus can also occur later in life as an adult. After a complete eye examination, an ophthalmologist can recommend appropriate treatment options, which may be:

- Glasses
- Covering or patching therapy
- Surgery
- A combination of each of the above

Eye muscle surgery or strabismus surgery involves either increasing or decreasing the tension of the small muscles on the surface of the eye.

At the Center for Advanced Eye Surgery, this type of procedure is performed under the direction of our highly skilled board-certified pediatric surgeon and a team of specially trained staff. When this type of surgery is performed on children, a general anesthetic is required.

In a brief explanation of how this procedure is accomplished, let us start by first acknowledging a misconception... the eyeball is never removed from the socket. The surgeon makes a small incision in the tissue covering the eye to reach the eye muscles. The eye muscles are removed from the wall of the eye and repositioned during the surgery, depending on which direction the eye is turning. Surgical techniques involve hidden incision so there is no visible scarring on the surface of the eye. It may be necessary to perform surgery on one or both eyes.

Recovery is rapid and children are usually able to return to their normal activities within a few days.

Strabismus surgery is usually a safe and effective treatment for eye misalignment. It is not, however, a substitute for glasses or amblyopia therapy.

For more information, please contact our patient advisor by phone at 330-747-2733 or by email at info@eyecareassociates.com.

The intent of this handout is to educate users about eye care. Information found on www.eyecareassociates.com is not intended to replace medical advice. Questions about treatment information should be addressed by your physician.