



**BIOS** | BRITISH AND IRISH  
ORTHOPTIC SOCIETY

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The fact that the orthoptists understand what is happening to my eyes and can explain it to me makes everything far easier to come to terms with and is not so frightening. I know what the next steps are, what to expect and can therefore be prepared for what could have been a very uncertain future.

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**Child with potential vision loss**



**Teenager with squint (strabismus)**



**Adult with brain tumour**



**Older adult after stroke**

Without orthoptist

Child with potential vision loss



**Patient outcome:**  
If undetected in the first few years of life, delayed treatment will prevent improvement in ability to see



**Economic cost:**  
Reduced vision through school years negatively impacts education, decreasing job prospects



**Social cost:**  
Reduced vision can affect a child's concentration, their ability to learn and play, and ultimately their life satisfaction

Teenager with squint (strabismus)



**Patient outcome:**  
Unlikely to receive necessary surgical correction. Other professionals likely to put emphasis on refractive, medical condition of the eye



**Economic cost:**  
Less success in education can lead to significantly reduced chances of employment



**Social cost:**  
Can lead to low self-esteem, poorer quality social interactions and potential mental health issues

Adult with brain tumour



**Patient outcome:**  
Delayed diagnosis can lead to delays in treatment as well as increased visual field loss and blurred vision



**Economic cost:**  
Extended time off work and potentially increased carer costs due to disability



**Social cost:**  
Loss of independence and reliance on others. Possibility of depression due to additional symptoms and lack of understanding of eye problems

Older adult after stroke



**Patient outcome:**  
Not addressing visual problems reduces the effectiveness of rehabilitation. Increased risk of falls, depression and low mood



**Economic cost:**  
Reduced vision through increased costs of longer hospital stays and increased care needs



**Social cost:**  
Loss of independence and reduced social and leisure activities. Possibility of social isolation

With orthoptist



**Patient outcome:**  
Identification and treatment at a young age enables normal visual development



**Economic benefit:**  
Good vision will enable a child to fulfil their educational potential, maximising their opportunity to contribute economically



**Social benefit:**  
Good vision enhances a child's ability to develop social relationships with peers, enabling full participation in learning and playing



**Patient outcome:**  
Validation of importance of issues, often leading to corrective surgery



**Economic benefit:**  
Increased confidence enabling higher educational achievement and improved job prospects



**Social benefit:**  
More rounded individual with increased self-confidence, an improvement in social interactions and greater quality of life



**Patient outcome:**  
More immediate access to treatment and more rapid adaptation to field loss with increased understanding



**Economic benefit:**  
More likely to maintain independence, returning to work and lowering care requirements.



**Social benefit:**  
Reduced chance of depression due to reduction in the impact of symptoms, and a greater chance of maintaining involvement in society



**Patient outcome:**  
Addressing visual problems increases likelihood of effective rehabilitation and reduces the risk of falls



**Economic benefit:**  
Reduction in length of hospital stay and greater likelihood of returning home



**Social benefit:**  
Engagement in community and leisure activities. Greater independence, including increased likelihood of returning to work and driving