



The Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute
Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus

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Patching is being used to treat your child's amblyopia. The patch blocks vision in the better-seeing eye. This encourages use of the eye with poor vision and improves vision in that eye over time.

Please patch the Right eye **all waking hours.**
Left eye _____ **days each week** _____ **hours per day**

Where can I get the patches? Patches are available over the counter at your drug store as either Coverlet Eye Occlusor (fabric type, rounded or rectangular shape) or Opticlude (paper type, rounded shape).

Why can't I use a "pirate's patch" on a strap, or put a patch on my child's glasses? Children will try to peek around a patch and use the better eye. While the better eye is being used, the eye with amblyopia is not used, and vision will not improve in that eye. Therefore you must place the patch directly on the skin.

Is it possible to patch the eye too much? Yes, in some cases, if the better eye is patched too long without a doctor's supervision, it can lose vision. You should follow your doctor's instructions carefully and call if you have any questions.

How long will we need to use the patch? Your child's vision will be checked each time you return for an examination. When the vision is equal in the two eyes, or when vision stops improving, patching will be decreased or discontinued.

I give up. I just can't keep the patch on. Is there any other way to treat amblyopia? First, remember that your orthoptist and doctor have a lot of experience with patching and may have some tricks to help you patch successfully. When a child will not wear a patch, we frequently use atropine eye drops to blur the eye with better vision. Discuss this with your doctor.

If you have any other questions about patching, please don't hesitate to give us a call.