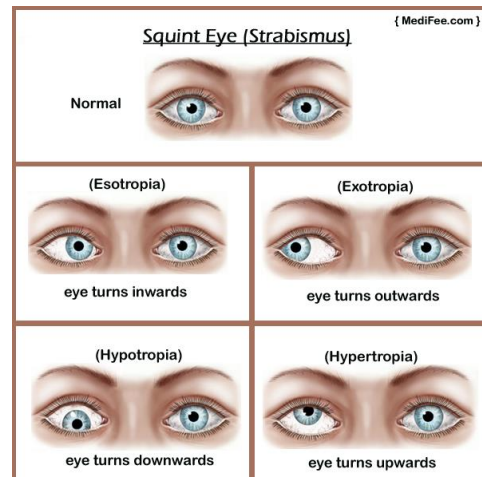


When to Refer – A Checklist of Vision Skills

Ocular Alignment is the position of the eyes in relation to one another. When looking at the patient's eyes, do you notice:

- One eye turns inwards
- One eye turns outwards
- One eye turns down
- One eye turns up



If any of the above is noticed, the patient should be referred for a binocular vision evaluation.

Visual Fixation is the ability to maintain visual attention when looking at an object.

- Can the patient maintain fixation for 15 seconds in various gazes?

Saccadic Eye Movements are rapid jumps of the eyes as they change points of fixation.

- Can the patient jump his/her eyes between two horizontal targets accurately?

Tracking Eye Movements are the ability of the eyes to smoothly follow moving targets and to scan through visual stimulus. Tracking is also known as pursuit movements.

- Can the patient follow a moving target without losing fixation?

Convergence/Divergence is the ability to turn the eyes inward and outward as a team without experiencing double vision.

- Can the patient follow an object inwards towards the nose with both eyes fixated on the target?
- Does the patient experience double vision during this exercise?
- Can the patient move his/her eyes between a near target and a far target with skill and both eyes moving equally?

Accommodation/Focusing is closely tied to convergence and divergence skills and impacts the ability to look from far to near and near to far with clarity.

- Does the patient experience difficulty when switching his/her gaze between working at near and working at far?

Difficulties with fixation, tracking/pursuits, or saccadic movements can often be part of OT treatment, but a binocular vision evaluation is recommended for patients who have difficulties with using their eyes as a team or difficulties with focusing near and far.

Use the COVD Referral Checklist or Detailed Checklist to help determine if a patient should be referred for a binocular vision evaluation or a free screening at Focus Academy.

Feel free to contact Focus Academy at 248-385-8235 or info.focusacademy@gmail.com for more information.