

## HYPOACCOMMODATIVE SQUINT: TWO CASE HISTORIES

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The two cases here presented fall into Costenbader's second group of comitant esotropias, that of hypoaccommodatives. Broadly, Costenbader states that this type of squint appears between the ages of one and six years and is associated with a lower degree of hypermetropia than is found in the refractive type. He attributes the overconvergence, which is particularly apparent when reading, to excessive demands on a weakened accommodation mechanism.

Two patients, Mr. R.B. and Mrs. S.L., were each referred at 24 years, giving rather vague histories of an earlier turn in the right eye. Mr. R.B. believed he might have had one at eleven years of age. Mrs. S.L. remembered her mother saying: "You must be tired; your eye is turning." This occurred in her late teens. Both patients had been given convex spheres of less than one dioptre, which failed to help and were worn for about three months only. Both of them complained of focusing difficulties, frontal headaches, frequent diplopia when tired, and blurred vision for near.

Orthoptic findings were characteristic. There was a small esotropia, at most, for distance and a large right convergent squint for near. Accommodation on the near point rule was grossly defective for the patients' years, and the Maddox wing varied from esophoria  $10^{\Delta}$  to  $35^{\Delta}$ . Convergence was fair but showed no pupillary constriction. In each case there was normal visual acuity for distance while monocular vision was extremely poor for near (N48 to N36). Synoptophore examination showed binocular vision present.

It was found that +2.50 dioptre spheres for near allowed Mr. R.B. to bar read N8, and reduced his prism cover test from  $60^{\Delta}$  to  $8^{\Delta}$  of esophoria. Mrs. S.L., likewise with +2.50 spheres right and left, was able to bar read N5 with her Maddox wing reading reduced from esophoria  $18^{\Delta}$  to orthophoria. These corrections were accordingly ordered by the ophthalmologist for near work.

Mr. R.B. was seen in 1968. Contacted by telephone nine years later, he is still wearing the same prescription glasses, but as his job as a design draughtsman has changed, he thinks his glasses may need changing too. Mrs. S.L., last seen nine months ago, is still symptom free and wearing the same glasses for close work.

## REFERENCE:

Costenbader, F.D., (1950) *The Management of Convergent Strabismus* in Strabismus Ophthalmic Symposium (No. 1) Allen, J.H. Ed., Mosby, St. Louis. p.334.