

## RESULTS OF LION'S CLUB AMBLYOPIA SURVEYS

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### Abstract

*This paper presents the findings of the visual screening programme conducted by orthoptists under the organisation of the Lion's Clubs of Victoria. During the period from May 1980 to August 1982, 6,515 children were tested and a referral rate of 6.83% was found.*

**Key words:** Visual screening, ocular motility disorder.

### INTRODUCTION

This paper presents the results obtained in the Victorian Lion's Club amblyopia surveys performed between May, 1980 and August, 1982.

### METHOD

These surveys are conducted at weekends, testing children in the age group of four to six years in their local area, usually in schools or town halls.

The following tests are performed:  
cover test, 1/3 metre and six metres  
visual acuity, E chart, six metres  
ocular movements  
convergence near point.

The children are referred for a full ocular examination if they exhibit any one of the following:

- (a) visual acuity less than 6/9 in either eye
- (b) manifest deviation
- (c) large or decompensating latent deviation
- (d) significant convergence insufficiency
- (e) visual acuity of 6/9 if there are other indications, e.g. family history of myopia.

### RESULTS

Of the 6,515 children tested, 445 (6.83%) were referred for further investigation.

TABLE 1  
Type of Defect Found

Type of defect	Amblyopia	No Amblyopia	VA Unobtainable	Total
Constant esotropia	23	6	1	30
exotropia	4	6	1	11
hypertropia	0	1	0	1
Intermittent esotropia	8	6	0	14
exotropia	6	43	2	51
Heterophoria	4	5	1	10
Convergence insufficiency	0	3	0	3
Ocular motility disorder	4	8	0	12
Total	49	78	5	132

Of these 445 children referred, 313 (4.8%) had some degree of amblyopia with no deviation of the visual axes, and 132 (2.03%) had either a squint or other ocular motility disorder. From Table 1 it can be seen that the most common conditions detected were intermittent exotropia, the majority having no amblyopia, and constant esotropia, most presenting with amblyopia.

#### CONCLUSION

It is interesting to note that of the 445 children referred, 78 (17.5%) were found to have a squint or ocular motility disorder but had vision in both eyes of 6/9 or better.

These results again show the importance of the cover test and ocular movements being performed by trained personnel, as well as visual acuity tests in the visual screening of children.