



Paediatric information: 8-12 years

Microphthalmia/anophthalmia

Microphthalmia (pronounced *my-krop-thal-mee-ah*) is also known as a condition called 'small eye'. This is where your eye didn't grow properly and is smaller than normal.

Anophthalmia (pronounced *ann-opff-thal-mee-ah*) is a condition where your eye didn't grow at all and is missing.

How you see the world

If only one of your eyes is smaller or missing then you will see everything normally. If both your eyes have the condition you may only be able to see bright lights and large shapes, or you may not be able to see anything at all.

How the world sees you

Your eye or eyes will look smaller than normal. If you have no eye, then it will look like your eyelid is closed. Children are often given an artificial (pretend) eye which looks like a normal eye.

Why did I get this condition?

Most cases happen by chance and the reason why isn't always known.

How can the doctors tell?

The doctor can tell by examining your eye with special lights and often with a

special scan (ultrasound) which looks at the size of your eye.

Getting it sorted

Children with anophthalmia or microphthalmia should come to the eye clinic as soon as possible after the problem is noticed. Your eye socket will be prepared and fitted with an artificial eye to wear on top to make it look like a normal eye. This may be changed every few months as you grow. A few children need an operation to help the artificial eye fit.

When there's a problem

Sometimes when you have a small eye or no eye, you can feel embarrassed about it and you might be teased by other children. If anything about your eye condition is upsetting you, try to talk to your parents or guardian, a teacher or someone else older than you as they might be able to help.

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Moorfields Direct telephone helpline

Phone: 020 7566 2345
Monday-Friday, 8.30am-9pm
Saturday, 9am-5pm
Information and advice on eye conditions and treatments from experienced ophthalmic-trained nurses.

Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

Phone: 020 7566 2324/ 020 7566 2325
Email: moorfields.pals@nhs.net
Moorfields' PALS team provides confidential advice and support to help you with any concerns you may have about the care we provide, guiding you through the different services available at Moorfields. The PALS team can also advise you on how to make a complaint.

Your right to treatment within 18 weeks

Under the NHS constitution, all patients have the right to begin consultant-led treatment within 18 weeks of being referred by their GP. Moorfields is committed to fulfilling this right, but if you feel that we have failed to do so, please contact our patient advice and liaison service (PALS) who will be able to advise you further (see above). For more information about your rights under the NHS constitution, visit www.nhs.uk/choiceinthenhs

