

Tiny Eyes

Eye screening for babies and toddlers

Whether congenital or acquired, eye defects in babies need to be detected early and given prompt and appropriate treatments. Eye assessments and examination for vision abnormalities in babies should start soon after birth.

Although your baby's eyesight is expected to be a little blurry at birth, he/she should be able to make out movement, shapes and light. Your baby's eyes take some time to function regularly and adjust to the world, i.e. some babies tend to have crossed eyes or unable to focus, but some signs could indicate red flags.

Visit your Paediatrician regularly

If you haven't already, you should pay your paediatrician a visit as soon as possible to get your baby's eyes checked. The first eye check-up of your baby should be between ages six and 10 months. It is better to see an optometrist or doctor who provides the PediaVue™ Baby Eye Screening.

"The main objective of an eye examination is to make sure that your baby's eyes are developing as they should", explained Yap Tiong Peng, a senior consultant optometrist from IGARD Group. By age 15 to 18 months, your baby should have developed sufficient visual skills to look at a moving object. The doctor will try to get your baby to fix his/her gaze on a moving object; assess the pupillary light reflexes, red reflex and corneal reflexes; examine his/her cornea/crystalline lens, and complete with the PediaVue™ Baby Eye Screening.

The Importance of Early Detection

If detected early, most visual issues of your baby can be corrected. As your baby gets older, fixing any vision problems, such as crossed eyes (strabismus) and lazy eye (amblyopia), gets harder; more so if your baby was born prematurely. Premature babies and those with family history of eye problems may have a greater risk for developing certain eye conditions, such as astigmatism and short-sightedness (myopia).

It is advisable to immediately seek your doctor's attention if you notice your baby having trouble in moving one or both her eyes in all directions, or if they appear to either turn in or out. Your doctor or optometrist may need to refer your baby to another doctor or specialist to correct your baby's vision problems.

PediaVue Eye Screening

Preventive eye care, such as PediaVue™ Baby Eye Screening, aims to detect vision disorders in babies early. Undetected and undiagnosed vision disorders could lead to a permanent vision defect in babies. The PediaVue™ Baby Eye Screening consists of a series of baby-specific vision tests by an optometrist and the use of a pediatric binocular photorefractive technology to determine if there are any early signs of abnormalities. "This means that the test is safe, no eye drops are used, and it only takes a few minutes to know the result," says Andy Teo, a senior consultant optometrist from ValueSight who offers the PediaVue Baby, Toddler and Preschooler Eye Screening.

Eyes develop as your baby grows, and vision defects can recur in the process. So it is advisable for all babies and toddlers to participate in preventive eye care and eye examination regularly. Preferably, your baby's eyes should be checked before his/her first birthday, and must be regularly repeated thereafter.

Pediatric Optometry (IGARD) offers PediaVue™ Baby, Toddler and Preschooler Eye Screening in their clinic. Visit www.pediavue.com for a list of clinics that offers this service.

Reference:
www.pediavue.com

List of clinics that provide PediaVue Baby, Toddler and Preschooler Eye Screening:

- **NTU Medical Centre**
(1 Nanyang Avenue) 9641 2430
- **University Health Centre**
(Optometry) (20 Lower Kent Ridge Road) 9641 2430
- **Paediatric Optometry Centre**
(51 Cuppage Road #01-04) Tel. 6733 2123
- **IGARD Group @ Orchard**
6732 3233 eyecentre@igard.com.sg