EYE CONDITIONS

DUANE’S SYNDROME

DESCRIPTION
Duane’s Syndrome is present at birth and due to a lack of development of the sixth nerve. This causes some eye muscles to contract when they should not and other eye muscles to not contract when they should.

- Limited or absent ability to move the eye outward toward the ear (known as abduction)
- In most cases there is a limited ability to move the eye inward toward the nose (adduction)
- Often only one eye is affected, most often the left
- In some cases both eyes are affected, with one eye usually more affected than the other

Duane’s is subdivided into three types, each with associated symptoms.
Type 1: The affected eye or eyes has limited ability to move outward towards the ear, but the ability to move towards the nose is near normal
Type 2: The affected eye or eyes has limited ability to move inward towards the nose, but the ability to move outward toward the ear is near normal
Type 3: The affected eye or eyes has limited ability to move both inward toward the nose and outward toward the ears

It is interesting to note that most people with Duane’s do not have diplopia (double vision) when looking away from midline.

ACCESS TO CURRICULUM/ENVIRONMENT/SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- Young people with Duane’s may use a head turn to improve their viewing, and this should be encouraged
- Spectacles containing a prism can help to eliminate the need for a head turn
- If spectacles are prescribed they should be worn consistently and kept in good clean condition

USEFUL STRATEGIES

- Provide clear well-contrasted images
- Present visual information centrally
- Extra time may be required for the young person to look at information and acquire new skills
- Be aware that constant looking and focussing, particularly if needing to track from left to right as in reading, may be tiring and the young person may appear reticent to participate in work or play activities
- Hand-eye and fine motor tasks may be impaired and tasks such as cutting will be helped if the line is broader to increase contrast
- Handwriting may be affected and touch-typing skills may be of value

USEFUL CONTACTS:

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