

CASE HISTORY : CONVERGENT SQUINT OF SUDDEN ONSET

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Presented in Sydney, April 1975

S.B. was born with a double or bifid nose (3 nostrils). At the age of 4 years she underwent extensive cranio-facial surgery to improve her appearance. This involved multiple bandaging of skull and face, and when the bandages were removed, the right eye had turned in. Her mother had never noticed a squint previously.

About 5 months later, at the age of $4\frac{1}{2}$, S.B. was presented in the orthoptic clinic of Sydney Eye Hospital with a 30Δ right convergent squint and slight right hypertropia; and visual acuity right eye 6/18, left eye 6/9. The synoptophore angle was 13° , R/L 2Δ , and fusion with simple SV was held to $+32^\circ$ R/L 2Δ and to $+10^\circ$ R/L 2Δ .

S. gave an appearance of bird-like fragility; she wanted desperately to have straight eyes. She accepted constant and total left patch occlusion stoically but when it was removed she had the sensation that the delicate bridge of her nose was "coming right off". Large cotton wool pads were accepted instead. The vision became equal but fine S.V. was still confused: we changed to part-time pads. A date was set for the operation: on went the pads full time again and anti-suppression treatment at the synoptophore was begun. When the small bird retained 2 black legs without stimulation, S. and I sat back and cheered. She wore her cotton wool pad right up until surgery.

Three weeks later there was only a small exophoria with good recovery,

6/5, N5 each eye,

zero angle and 20° of fusion,

SV accurate on Titmus fly, animals, & 6/9 circles.

At this stage a newspaper article recorded the withdrawal of the drug Duogynon for pregnancy testing, as research had shown it to be the cause of some cases of cleft palate. When S's mother read this, her "heart stopped" (she said). Doctors and plastic surgeon had questioned her exhaustively about her medication during pregnancy; she knew without a shadow of a doubt that she had taken no drugs once she knew a child was on the way. But Duogynon had been used to determine her pregnancy, and the palate is part of the nose.

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank Dr. Geoffrey Hipwell for referring this child to me, and for allowing me to present the case history.