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Celebrating 40 Years of Excellence in Eye Care

Question:

At what age should a child start getting regular eye exams?

Answer:

All children should undergo an evaluation to detect eye and vision abnormalities during:

- ❖ The first few months of life (usually screened at the hospital)
- ❖ At 6 months to 1 year
- ❖ At 3 to 4 years
- ❖ At 5 years (approximately).

Abnormalities present at birth, such as opacities of the ocular media (e.g., congenital cataract) or ptosis, may have profound effects on the development of the normal vision in the infant. By age 3 1/2 years, the child will generally cooperate enough for fairly accurate assessment of visual acuity and ocular alignment, and he or she should have this assessed by a pediatrician or other medical practitioner. Any abnormalities or inability to test are criteria for referral to an ophthalmologist. Infants at high risk, such as those with the potential for retinopathy of prematurity and those with a family history of retinoblastoma, childhood cataracts, childhood glaucoma, or metabolic and genetic disease, should have a medical examination by an ophthalmologist as soon as medically feasible.

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