

Corneal Light Reflex

Ages

Post newborn through 20 years.

Purpose

To check for milder degrees of constant strabismus. To differentiate pseudo-strabismus in children with large epicanthal folds.

Description

By noting the position of light being reflected in the pupils, the observer is able to check for a constant strabismus.

Equipment

Penlight and target object.

Screener qualifications

Can be performed by screeners who have completed the recommended training by the Minnesota Department of Health or equivalent.

Facilities

Normal or lower light level. Minimize, if possible, the number of light sources (i.e. windows, overhead lights, etc.).

Procedure

1. Position the child so that the target, the light source, and the examiner's line of vision is at the midline in front of the child's eyes at a distance of 14-16 inches.
2. Try to have the child sit with his/her back to any ceiling lights.
3. Shine the penlight at the center of the child's forehead directly above and between the child's eyes.
4. Make sure the child is focused on the target.
5. The screener then observes the reflected light in each pupil.
6. It is very important that good light is used. Ceiling lights are not sufficient.

PASS

The reflection of the light appears to be in a symmetrical position in the pupil of each eye.

REFER

The reflection of light appears to be in an asymmetrical position in one eye compared to the other.

NOTE: This test is very helpful to detect pseudostrabismus, the false appearance of strabismus. Sometimes a child's eyes may appear crossed when they actually are not. This is often due to the wide bridge of the nose or the epicanthal fold.



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