

The Spectacle

Peabody Vision Associates 229 Andover St. (Rte 114) Peabody (978) 532-1022 Fall 2007

By: Dr. Tiffany Chang



No More Lazy Eye

Recently, I had trouble sleeping at night because my patient, a cute 5 year-old little girl, was unwilling to wear her thick glasses. Her parents, who love her a lot and didn't want people to make fun of their daughter in thick glasses, unfortunately allowed glasses time to slip away.

This little girl's vision hovered near legal blindness, and although the glasses would give her a fighting chance to permanently improve her vision, the stigma of wearing "coke bottle" glasses and the initial discomfort adjusting to a high prescription proved to be too much of a deterrent. Her parents were not supportive although other doctors besides me had warned them of the consequences, and I feel that the girl's vision will now only worsen over time.

And thus, I write this article -- because I firmly believe that the more outreach I can do, hopefully, the fewer cases like the one I just described will occur. It's my job to help your children see better and I take it seriously.

It is a myth that children will outgrow lazy eye without medical intervention and without parental support. I cannot stress how important a parent's role is.

A child's visual system is developing from birth until the teens. During this critical period, if their vision is poor (from a high prescription, from muscular misalignment, or from a medical condition), the proper connections between the brain and eye do not develop. This time is precious. Once the developmental period is through, it is through. Please make sure that your child is checked yearly and that they are in their proper prescription as prescribed by your doctor.

As a child who wore thick glasses, I can appreciate parents who consider the social issues associated with glasses wear. Those issues are very real to a kid just learning to define themselves. I encourage you to speak with Dr. Hamel or me about these issues because there are multiple alternatives and compromises. The most important thing is that your child wears their prescription (be it glasses, contacts, or patch) as indicated.

Today's lens manufacturers offer many thin, high index lenses with coatings that will decrease the "coke bottle" look and heaviness of yesterday's glasses. Dr. Hamel and I always prescribe safety polycarbonate lens material to children because the material is more shatter resistant and will protect your child's eyes during their active hours. These lenses are lighter, much more comfortable, and offer better optics. Investing in aspheric high index lenses may help your child feel more confident about their prescription while increasing their compliance with their prescribed therapy! Investing in frames the child prefers will encourage them to participate and wear their glasses.

regular thicker lenses



aspheric high index



In addition, if you deem your child responsible enough and if their eyes are healthy enough, contacts may be a viable option. My youngest patient in contacts is 6 years old. Again, the important thing is that your child wears his/her prescription during the critical developmental period.

If you are like me, you will notice that the word "invest" appeared multiple times in the preceding paragraphs. Parents truly must invest their time, love, encouragement, and care to promote the best visual development for their children. Although for some children, this may be a more expensive investment than others, it is an investment that still costs pennies per day and means all the difference in long-term quality of life.

New Products

Our patients enjoy being on the forefront when it comes to products for their eyes. Here is the latest and greatest that has been added to our office:

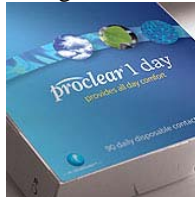
Sola Ultra Compact Progressive Lenses

- No line bifocal lenses
- Short seg height to fit into smaller frames



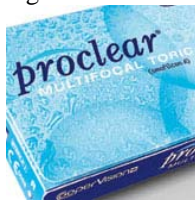
Proclear 1 Day Contacts

- dry eye contacts
- aspheric design for sharper optics
- one day throw-away lenses so you start sterile everytime without the hassle of cleaning



Proclear Toric Multifocals

- They're finally here! Bifocal contact lenses for astigmatism patients means sharper clarity for distance and reading vision without glasses.



Biofinity Contacts

- Dry eye contacts
- Aspheric design for sharper optics



Latest Designer Frames



Visit our Website

www.pearlevisionpeabody.com

- online contacts orders with discounts directly from the vendor and shipping to your house
- spectacle newsletter back issues
- promotions and coupons
- check-in forms
- current frames inventory
- free LASIK consultation schedules

Tears and Your Eyes

Without a good cushioning layer of high-quality tears, your eye is susceptible to infection, scarring, abrasion, and discomfort.

We are a dry eye specialty practice. Whether you suffer minor symptoms such as transient blur and burning sensation or severe medical sequelae from dryness, at our office, we will always treat dry eyes. It is a medical condition. By fixing the source of the problem while the dry eye is still minor, our doctors firmly believe that you can prevent severe (and often permanent) side effects from ever occurring.

We offer high quality products such as contacts designed for dry eyes and in-office procedures such as punctal plugs. Ask your doctor for a consult, and remember that medical visits (such as dry eye visits) are covered by HMOs with a simple referral!



PEARLE VISION
Nobody cares for eyes more than Pearle.®

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