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Restrictive strabismus: diagnosis and management

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Introduction: Restrictive strabismus is a form of ocular misalignment with limitation of motility caused by various intrinsic or extrinsic mechanical forces. The clinical spectrum of complete or partially restrictive strabismus is very broad. Most cases are of congenital, traumatic, endocrine, post-paralytic or myopathic origin. The surgical treatment is designed to correct abnormal head posture, to eliminate diplopia in primary and functional positions of gaze.

Purpose: The objective of this presentation is to present a clinical approach to the diagnosis and evaluation of patients with restrictive strabismus and to propose a logical approach to the correction of ocular misalignment.

Patients & Methods: As representative of the broad spectrum of restrictive strabismus problems, a series of cases are presented and the preoperative and postoperative clinical findings are illustrated with photographs.

Conclusion: The clinical evaluation of patients with restrictive strabismus must include a careful and detailed history, which is crucial to establish the diagnosis. Analysis of fixation, head posture, and ocular alignment require both basic and special examination techniques. A variety of surgical strategies can be applied to improve head posture, eliminate diplopia, and improve cosmesis.

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