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Pharmacological Treatment of Amblyopia: Atropine Penalization

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Amblyopia has been a mystery to clinicians for centuries. It is one of the few conditions we cannot approach surgically. There are many different types of treatments that have been used in the past. Almost 100 years ago, Worth suggested the use of atropine penalization as a treatment option. It has been proven to work effectively. Still today, however, the patch seems to be the primary treatment choice. If both methods work effectively, why not try atropine first? If the child can switch fixation, and has visual acuity in the amblyopic eye of 20/100 or better, atropine can be considered for the primary treatment to help restore vision.

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