

The Paediatric Management Group (PMG) has recognized the value of the plusoptiX Vision Screener to paediatric practice. According to Dr Simon Strachan, Chairman of the PMG, the plusoptiX device presents an opportunity for paediatricians to make a difference to their patients' visual development. The plusoptiX Vision Screener is an ocular screening device designed to detect refractive errors and eye misalignment in children aged 6 months and older. The early detection of amblyogenic risk factors allows for the best visual outcomes in treating vision disorders.

Amblyopia is a vision disorder resulting from the lack of a focused image on the retina. Without treatment the brain stops using that eye and the eye effectively goes blind. Treatment before age five usually.

Refractive errors are a set of vision disorders that occur because of an irregular eye shape which affects the way light is focused in the eye, this results in blurry or distorted vision. The main types of refractive errors are myopia (near sightedness), hyperopia (farsightedness) and astigmatism. Treatment involves eyeglasses.

Healthy eyes are of critical importance to a child's development.

On average, one in every five, four-year-olds has an undetected vision disorder. Unless there is an obvious visual disorder, these vision disorders often go undetected. Affected children do not realize that their vision is compromised. This is because that is how they are accustomed to seeing the world. Even if they are aware, they often lack the ability to verbalise any difficulties they may be having. These vision disorders are then discovered when it is too late to aid the development of that child's visual system. It is therefore of critical importance that children have their eyes tested for amblyogenic risk factors annually, from age one year onwards. The earlier vision disorders, in particular Amblyopia, are detected, the more successfully they can be treated. Where there is a family history of eye disorders, the first measurement should be done earlier i.e. between 6 and 8 months. Annual screening is also recommended as the eyes change rapidly with growth and new visual disorders may occur at any time.

CE Marked and FDA approved, the plusoptiX device can be found in 89% of paediatric practices in Germany and in over 67% of paediatric practices across Europe. Locally, this vision technology has been very well received by paediatricians as well as eye care professionals. Ophthalmologists and optometrists in South Africa and neighbouring countries see the great benefit of this ocular device as a primary vision screening tool and have begun to use it in practice. The plusoptiX Vision Screener can detect amblyogenic risk factors as well as other refractive errors including strabismus, media opacities and other visual disorders such as Ametropia.

PlusoptiX Vision Screener is an easy-to-use, non-invasive, accurate screening solution that tests children's eyes and produces fully automated measurement results in just a few seconds. The device measures the refraction of both eyes simultaneously from one metre away. Measurements are equal to retinoscopy in an un-dilated pupil. The refraction measurements are automatically compared to an adjustable referral criteria and a "pass" or "refer" report is provided. Patients with a "refer" vision screening result must be referred to an eye care professional for a comprehensive eye examination.

This device is not only ideal for use by paediatricians, ophthalmologists and optometrists but also midwives and clinic sisters. All primary health care service providers can use this device. It is fast and easy to use and produces reliable results.

Currently, screening tests are not covered by medical aids. PlusoptiX South Africa is however, working on attaining a code for this purpose. The screening test however, is very affordable.

For further information regarding products, references and studies, please refer to our homepage: www.plusoptix.co.za . Alternatively you can email info@plusoptix.co.za or call us on 081 777 4447.