



*People with Noonan syndrome can suffer from hearing loss and eye problems.*

## Hearing

Problems with hearing are relatively common, but in many cases these are related to fluid in the middle ear (chronic otitis media) in childhood and are temporary. Severe hearing problems are rare but may be helped with hearing aids or cochlear implants.

## Vision

Eye problems that may affect people with Noonan syndrome include:

**Strabismus** – a condition where the eyes do not point in the same direction. Also known as a squint, the condition causes one or both eyes to turn inward ('crossed eyes') or outward ('wall eyes').

**Refractive errors** – a type of visual problem that makes it hard to see clearly. They occur when the shape of the eye keeps light from focusing correctly on the retina (a light-sensitive layer of tissue in the back of the eye). It is corrected by glasses.

**Amblyopia** – also known as a 'lazy eye', amblyopia is a childhood condition where the vision does not develop properly because one or both eyes are unable to build a strong link to the brain. It usually only affects one eye, and means that the child can see less clearly out of the affected eye and relies more on the 'good' eye. It is treated by patching the eye.

**Nystagmus** – a condition of uncontrolled eye movement that causes the eyes to move or "wobble" constantly.

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## REFERENCES/FURTHER READING

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