

# Viewpoints

Pediatric Ophthalmology & The Center for Adult Strabismus



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From left, June, Pam, Judy, Thomas, Tham, Lynn, Misty



From left: Gina, Cynthia, Donna and Rosie  
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## Measuring the Enhancement of Quality of Life in Adults Status Post Strabismus Correction

by Joost Felijs, Ph.D.

Strabismus in adults is still an important focus of our attention. The management of adult strabismus has traditionally been regarded as difficult, yet good clinical and functional outcomes have been reported. A recent report by the American Academy of Ophthalmology concluded that surgical treatment of strabismus in adults is generally safe and effective. It has been shown that strabismus in adults is not only associated with functional deficits but also with psychosocial problems. This suggests that the health value inherent in the treatment of strabismus in adults may be determined by a complex equation weighing cost not only with functional benefits but also with a variety of subjective, psychosocial improvements. In modern health care, such patient-centered outcomes are increasingly recognized as important measures in decision-making and policymaking. Cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit analyses often include the effects of health management on the patients' quality of life.

Although it is appreciated that quality of life is a multidimensional trait, it is desirable for the purpose of cost-effectiveness analysis to capture quality of life in a single number: the "quality-of-life weight" or "utility," defined on a continuous scale from 1 (corresponding to perfect health) all the way down to 0 (corresponding to death).

At the Annual Meeting of the American Ophthalmological Society this year, George Beauchamp, MD presented the results of an effort to measure utility in strabismic adults who were seen at our Dallas and Grapevine offices. About 60% of all patients returned a utility of less than 1, indicating that they regarded their strabismus as a significant factor in causing a less-than-perfect health status. The median utility in patients who were scheduled for strabismus surgery was 0.90. Furthermore, strong relationships were found between utility and the level of diplopia, and between utility and the level of asthenopia. For comparison, literature data suggest that patients with diabetic retinopathy and visual acuity

between 20/20 and 20/25 in the best-seeing eye have utility of 0.86; post-myocardial infarction corresponds to 0.88; and partially controlled seizures (less than two seizures per month while taking lamotrigine) to 0.91.

Together with Cynthia Beauchamp, MD of the Department of Ophthalmology at the UT Southwestern Medical School, we are now working on determining pre- and post-surgical differences in utility. We then plan to offset these numbers to cost appraisals of the treatment of strabismus in adults, with the results of this *cost-utility analysis* expressed in \$/QALY (US dollars per quality-adjusted life year), the currency of modern health economics. This will be an important step in showing the true value of treatment of strabismus in adults.



## Our Satellite Offices Staff



Lisa, Paula and Amie  
Grapevine administrative  
and technical staff



Harjany  
Administrative staff  
Plano West



Danica, Debbie, Sandra, Remelle  
Plano East administrative &  
technical Staff



*"Perhaps the best Yuletide decoration is being wreathed in smiles".*

*- Unknown*

*The physicians and staff of Pediatric Ophthalmology wish you a very happy and healthy holiday season and a prosperous new year!*



From top left: George R. Beauchamp, M.D., Priscilla M. Berry, M.D., F.A.C.S., Alan D. Davis, M.D., Joost Feliuss, Ph.D., Research Director, Cynthia K. Garner, Practice Manager, David R. Stager, Sr., M.D., F.A.C.S., David R. Stager Jr., M.D., F.A.C.S., Serena X. Wang, M.D.  
The Physicians and Management of Pediatric Ophthalmology and The Center For Adult Strabismus

## **Drs. David R. Stager, Jr. and David R. Weakley are Principal Investigators for The Infant Aphakia Treatment Study** by Joost Feliuss, Ph.D.

Unilateral infantile aphakia can be a very frustrating condition to treat because the visual outcome is often quite poor. Intraocular lens implantation may improve the visual outcome but may also be associated with more complications, making it unclear whether IOL correction is superior to contact lens correction in aphakic infants. For this reason we have organized a clinical trial (The Infant Aphakia Treatment Study) that is supported by a grant from

the National Eye Institute to compare these treatments. Locally, David Stager, Jr., MD and David Weakley, MD (Children's Medical Center Dallas) are the Principal Investigators. Participants in this trial will be randomized to treatment either with a contact lens or an intraocular lens. Visual outcome, compliance with patching, and parenting stress will be followed until the child is four years of age.

We have estimated that only 60-90 children are born each year in Texas with congenital cataracts and about half of these are unilateral. In order to complete this study in a reasonable time period, we aim to recruit as many of these children as possible for this study.

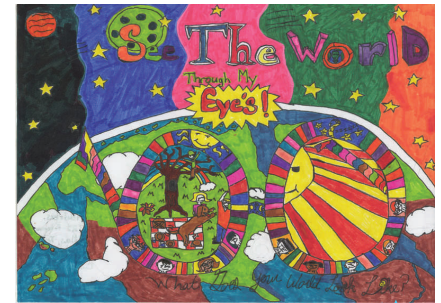


## American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (AAPOS) Calendar and Note Card National Art Contest Raises Funds for Eye Care for Families In Need

In August 2004, the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus asked children from around the world, preschool through sixth grade, to draw their vision of eye care. They received nearly 700 entries from across the United States, as well as from England, Mexico, India, Indonesia, and Barbados. From these entries, 51 regional winners were selected and displayed at the AAPOS annual meeting at Disney World from March 9 to 13, 2005. Those attending the meeting voted for their favorite drawings and chose 24 winners that will be featured in our 2006 and 2007 calendars. We congratulate these art contest winners and all the other young artists who put so much time and effort into their creations, and we thank everyone for taking the time to think about their eyes and eye care.

These calendars, reasonably priced at \$10, are colorful, full of important eye facts, and a perfect addition to your home or office. They also make wonderful holiday gifts. Each note card in the set of ten features a winning drawing on the outside and is blank on the inside, to allow for flexibility in use. They are wonderful for professional or personal correspondence. There is also a 10% discount for orders of 50 or more calendars or note cards.

To order, visit [www.aapos.org](http://www.aapos.org) or call 415-561-8505. Proceeds from the sale of these calendars and set of note cards featuring the winners' artwork will be used to promote public awareness of issues relating to pediatric ophthalmology and to directly benefit children in need of eye care who lack the means to afford it.



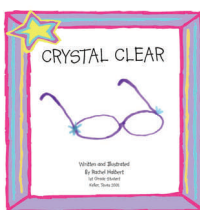
**Winning Drawing**  
Congratulations Cullen Crombie of Dallas. Great Job!



Cullen Crombie, a patient from the Dallas office, is twelve years old. He loves to read and his favorite books include the Series of Unfortunate Events. He enjoys playing baseball and tennis and hopes to grow up and pitch for the New York Yankees.



## 1st Grade Assignment Is Now A Published Children's Book



Rachel Halbert, a Grapevine patient, wrote a short story for a first grade writing assignment. She chose to write about her experience

with getting glasses, wearing a patch and having eye muscle surgery. Rachel communicated her experience with wise words beyond her years and drew delightful illustrations. This book will help other children and their parents understand strabismus and amblyopia. We are proud of Rachel for her accomplishment and thank the entire Halbert family for sharing her story.



The Children's Eye Foundation financed the printing costs of Crystal Clear to help educate others throughout the world about strabismus and amblyopia. All proceeds go directly into programs designed to optimize the quality of life for infants and children by fostering normal vision development and protection of vision through programs of prevention, treatment research and education. For more information or to order please call the Grapevine office at 817-329-5433. Each copy of Crystal Clear is \$5.00 and special discounts available for bulk orders.

In October 2005 Rachel's book, Crystal Clear was published with the donated time and expertise of Lisa Craig and Jackie Gage of DMB Sports Group, Inc. They provided design, editing and publishing services. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them very much for the inspired border designs and hard work done in the editing and publishing process. This book would not be possible without them!

