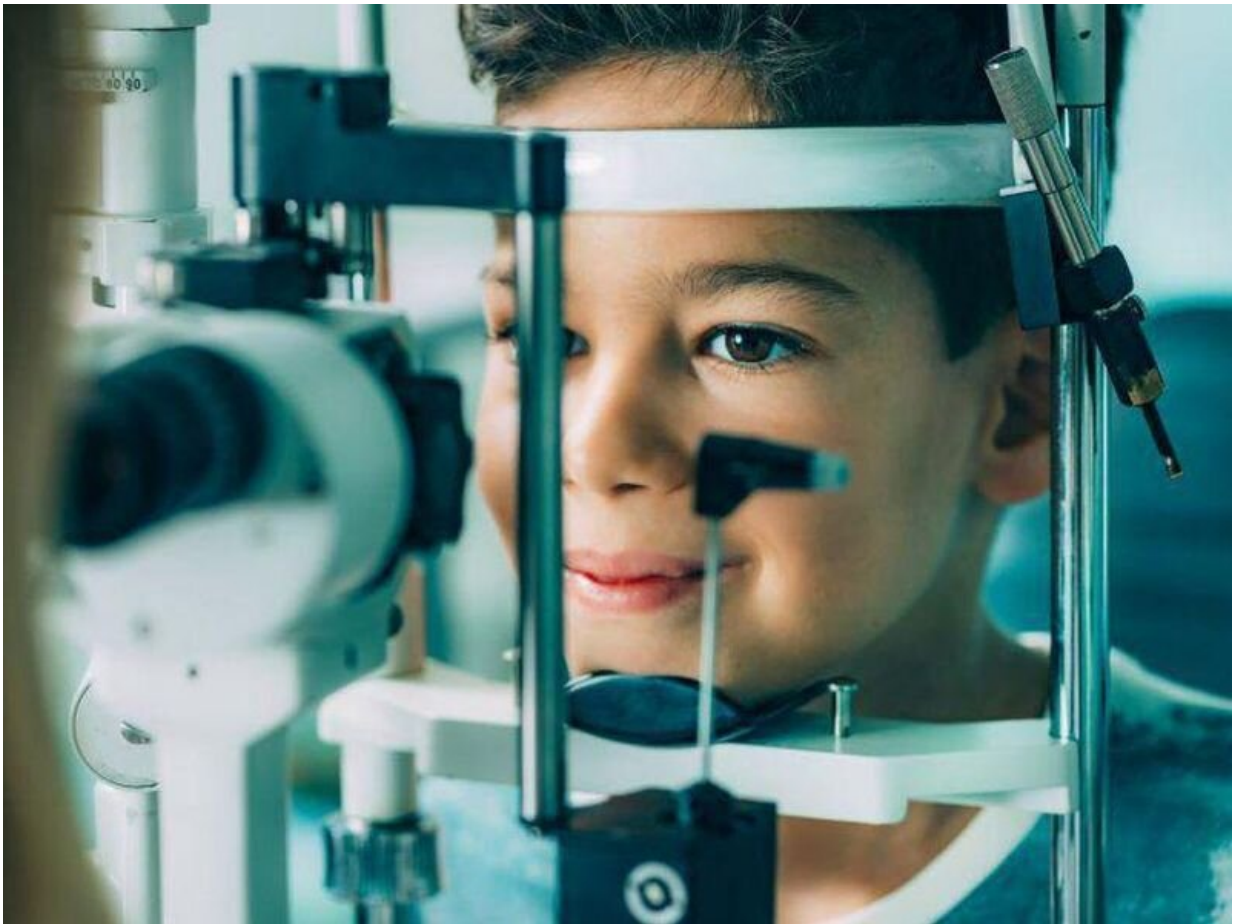


# Moderate associations identified for strabismus, mental health disorders

March 11 2022

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Strabismus is moderately associated with anxiety disorder,

schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and depressive disorder among children, according to a study published online March 10 in *JAMA Ophthalmology*.

Yoon H. Lee, M.D., from the University of California in Los Angeles, and colleagues conducted a cross-sectional study analyzing claims data for 12,005,189 patients enrolled in a [health plan](#) between Jan. 1, 2007, and Dec. 31, 2017. Children aged younger than 19 years at the time of strabismus diagnosis were included; controls were children in the same database with no eye disease codes other than refractive error.

The researchers found that the adjusted odds ratios for the association of mental illnesses with strabismus were 2.01 (95 percent confidence interval [CI], 1.99 to 2.04), 1.83 (95 percent CI, 1.76 to 1.90), 1.64 (95 percent CI, 1.59 to 1.70), 1.61 (95 percent CI, 1.59 to 1.63), and 0.99 (95 percent CI, 0.97 to 1.02) for anxiety disorder, schizophrenia, [bipolar disorder](#), [depressive disorder](#), and substance use disorder, respectively. A moderate association was seen between each strabismus type and anxiety disorder, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and depressive disorder; the odds ratios varied from 1.23 (95 percent CI, 1.17 to 1.29) to 2.70 (95 percent CI, 2.66 to 2.74) for the association between esotropia and bipolar disorder and between exotropia and anxiety disorder, respectively.

"These results should alert ophthalmologists and optometrists to counsel children and their caregivers regarding the risk for [mental illness](#)," the authors write. "They should consider incorporating a screening tool for [mental health problems](#) for patients with strabismus and referral of pediatric patients with strabismus for mental health evaluation."

**More information:** Yoon H. Lee et al, Association of Strabismus With Mood Disorders, Schizophrenia, and Anxiety Disorders Among Children, *JAMA Ophthalmology* (2022). [DOI:](#)

[10.1001/jamaophthalmol.2022.0137](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamaophthalmol.2022.0137)

S. Grace Prakalapakorn et al, Association Between Strabismus and Children's Mental Health, *JAMA Ophthalmology* (2022). DOI: [10.1001/jamaophthalmol.2022.0149](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamaophthalmol.2022.0149)

One author disclosed financial ties to Luminopia and Novartis.

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