

# Albinism

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# What is it?

- Hypermelanosis or hypomelanism.
- Mutation on the 11th chromosome.
- Recessive inheritance and autosomal.
- Hypopigmentary congenital disorder.
- Lack of pigment, Melanin.
- Normal amount of chromosomes.

# Melanin

- Makes up for brown, black, gray, and yellow pigments.
- Protects skin from UV rays.
- Albinism causes lack of melanin production.
- Melanism is the opposite of albinism.
  - Excessive production of melanin, causing extremely dark pigmentation.

# Who does it affect?

- Affects males and females equally.
- 1 in 17,000 have some form of albinism.
  - 1 in 75 are carriers of the gene.
- They are usually just as healthy as anyone else.
  - Eye problems are extremely common.
- Normal life span.

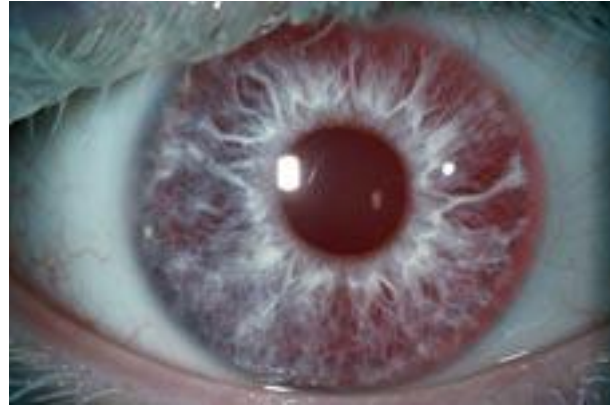
# Type One

- Oculocutaneous
  - Pigment lacking in the skin, eyes and hair.
  - Most common.
- Physical Appearance
  - Very light skin.
  - Translucent hair.
  - Irises appear blue, purple, pink or red, depending on the amount of non-melanin pigments in the eye.

# Type Two

- Ocular Albinism
  - Pigment lacks only in the eyes.
- Eye Problems
  - Nystagmus- shaky eyes.
  - Amblyopia- decreased acuity in the fovea.
  - Strabismus- lazy eye.
  - Esotropia- crossed eyes.
  - Photophobia- hypersensitivity to light.
  - Eccentric visual fixation.

# Other Eye Problems



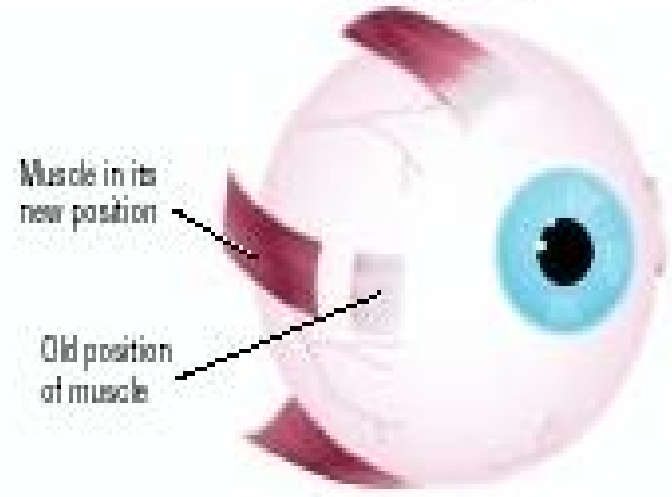
- Poor RPE
  - Retinal Pigmentation Epithelium
- Iris
  - In a normal eye, only the pupil lets in light.
  - In an albinistic eye, the iris also lets in light, causing hypersensitivity to light.

# Strabismus

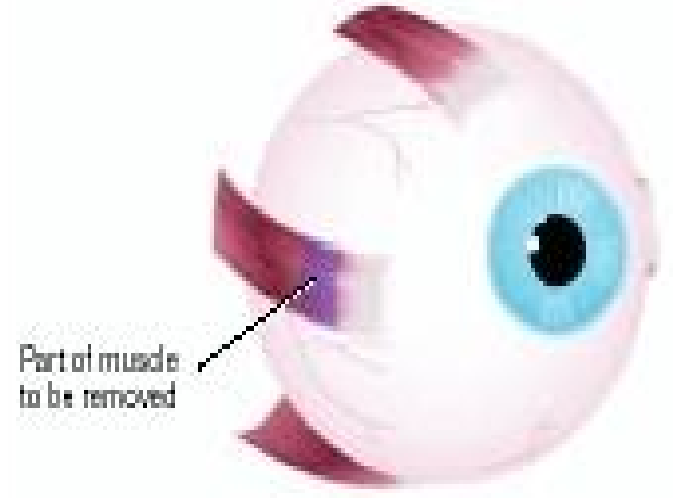
Before correction



Recession surgery



Resection surgery



After correction





## Is it curable?

- Like most congenital disorders, no.
- Symptoms can be treated.
  - Sunscreen and sunglasses.
  - Avoiding excessive light.
  - Wearing clothing that covers most skin.

# Annual Costs and 5 Year Plan

- About as affordable as a normal child.
- The only things that would change this are possible surgeries on the eyes.
- Annual costs: \$27,152
- Annual income: \$100,000
- 5 year plan: Treat the child as any other child.

# Works Cited

- [www.albinism.org](http://www.albinism.org)
- [www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/albinism](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/albinism)