

# Congenital cataract

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Congenital cataract or congenital opacity, is a **disease of the lens of the eye** . This defect impairs the transparency of the lens at a critical period in the development of binocular vision. It occurs with an incidence of 4 to 8 in 20,000 newborns, where approximately one third of cases may have a familial origin.

## Causes

The causes of cataracts can be diverse. These are, for example, external influences acting during pregnancy such as **radiation** , **drug therapy** (**corticosteroids** , sulfonamides), **skin** (atopy) and **metabolic diseases** (e.g diabetes mellitus) **of the mother** or premature birth. Other causes include disturbances in the development of the lens and vitreous, especially the pathologically developing vascular supply of the lens.

**Infection of the mother** during the first trimester of pregnancy is also a common cause . Cataract occurs, for example, with **congenital Rubella** in 15% of children. Another cause may be Down syndrome



Childhood cataracts

## Diagnostics

The diagnosis of cataract should be confirmed **as soon as possible** in a child , so that treatment can be started in time, which will allow the physiological development of the eye apparatus. **Nationwide screening** was introduced in the Czech Republic . In a healthy child, the doctor should see **a red retinal** reflection , then the test is considered negative. In the case of a positive test, further specialized examinations follow.

## Treatment

Treatment of congenital cataracts involves a long-term process in which surgery as well as education and cooperation of parents play an important role. The basic procedure is a **lensectomy** (removal of the lens). In children under 1 year, we leave the eye without a lens, in children older than 1 year, an intraocular lens is implanted. In the case of an aphakic eye, it is important **to correct the refractive error** with contact lenses or glasses, and it is also necessary **to treat Amblyopie**, which in most cases occurs after microsurgery. The goal of the treatment is perfect visual acuity and developed binocular vision of the child. The most common postoperative **complications** are **opacification** of the posterior capsule of the lens and **Glaucoma**.

## Links

### Related Articles

- Cataract
- Cataract surgery and complications

### External links

- Congenital cataract and glaucoma (<http://www.sanquis.cz/index1.php?linkID=art3291>)
- Congenital cataract surgery(YouTube) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=msYtpojUYeU>)

### Source

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