## American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN'S



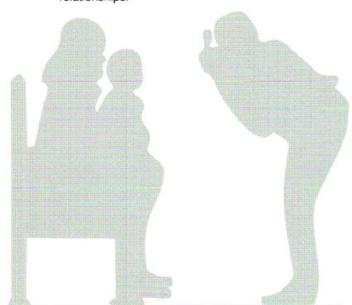
Section on Ophthalmology



Red reflexes from the retinas can be used by the physician to great advantage. The illustration shown here depicts the inequality of the red reflection or the interference with the red reflections in various conditions. The white dots represent corneal light reflexes.

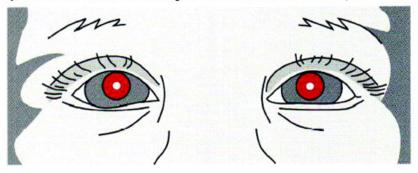
Techniques: Set the ophthalmoscope (preferably one with a halogen light source\*) on zero or close to zero, stand a few feet away from the child seated in the parent's lap, attract the child with voice or noise encouraging the child to look at the light, compare the red reflection from each pupil. Both red reflections should be viewed simultaneously and alternately. An expanded observation is the position of the white reflection, the corneal light reflex.

The beauty of this test is that it can be done with a "hands-off" approach; it can furnish accurate information without dilatation of the pupils. As a screening device it is very cost effective. We encourage you to work with this technique. It is useful far beyond all other manual inspection tests for assessments of vision, refraction, motility, alignment, injury evaluations, and eyelid-pupil relationships.

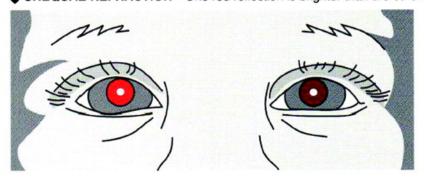


REFERENCE
Tongue AC, Cibis CW: Brückner test. Ophthalmology. 1981:88:1041–1044.
"Welch Allyn Ophthalmoscope # 11720

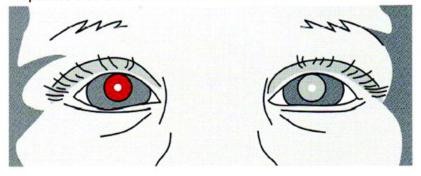
↓ NORMAL—Child looks at light. Both red reflections are equal.



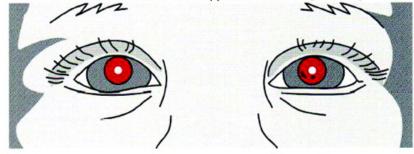
**J UNEQUAL REFRACTION**—One red reflection is brighter than the other.



↓ NO REFLEX (CATARACT)—The presence of lens or other media opacities blocks the red reflection or diminishes it.



↓ FOREIGN BODY/ABRASION (LEFT CORNEA)—The red reflection from the pupil will back-light corneal defects or foreign bodies. Movement of the examiner's head in one direction will appear to move the corneal defects in the opposite direction. (Parallax)



↓ STRABISMUS—The red reflection is more intense from the deviated eye.

