



**Figure 7-11a.** Adhesive eye patch is an example of an opaque occlusion device.



**Figure 7-11b.** Opaque occluder with elastic cord.



**Figure 7-12.** A small, central circular patch using translucent tape to help a patient avoid double vision.

### THE AMOUNT OF TIME TO USE OCCLUSION

When treating amblyopia, the amount of time to occlude an eye is an important clinical decision. In children younger than 3 years of age, the visual system is still very plastic and susceptible to interference. Thus, long periods of constant, opaque occlusion can potentially lead to loss of vision in the dominant eye. Clinicians are very careful about the amount of time occlusion is used with infants and young children and re-evaluate often. As the child gets older, however, full-time or constant occlusion for strabismic amblyopia is commonly used.

When visual acuity is very poor, a child may have great difficulty functioning in school. In such cases, clinicians may initially decide to limit the amount of occlusion used. As visual acuity improves in the amblyopic eye, the amount of occlusion time can be increased.