

Ophthalmology

Squint Surgery for Children



This leaflet is intended for patients who have been diagnosed as having a squint which requires surgical intervention.

What is Involved

The main benefit of this operation is to straighten the eyes. It will not improve the actual vision, the anaesthetist will see you on admission.

The operation is performed under a general anaesthetic (you will be asleep during the procedure). The white skin on the eye is cut. The muscles which move one eye are either weakened or tightened in order to straighten the eyes. A full explanation of the procedure will be discussed with you and your child. Dissolvable stitches are used. There is no eye patch needed following the operation. Most children go home in the late afternoon but an overnight bed will be available if your child feels unwell.

Anaesthesia

- The anaesthetist will discuss the general anaesthetic process with you and your child on the day.
- One parent can be present when your child is put to sleep with the general anaesthetic.
- A local anaesthetic cream will be rubbed on the back of the hands so that the anaesthetic can be given without pain.
- Pain killers may be given with your permission.

What are the risks?

- There is a risk of the eyes turning in or out at any time in the future. This may require further surgery.
- Although extremely rare, there is a risk of less than 2% that there could be an over correction of the squint (the eye alignment may move further than required and may need corrective surgery).
- There is a risk of infection. You will be given antibiotic eye drops.
- There may be some double vision immediately after the operation as the brain readjusts to the new eye position. This usually settles after a few days.

Alternatives

There are no alternatives to this procedure.

What should I do prior to the operation?

If your child is ill or has a bad cold before the operation, please discuss with the sister on the Ward. We may have to postpone the operation. It allows us to offer the operation to another patient in the meantime and saves you an unnecessary visit to the Eye Infirmary.

What should I expect after the operation?

The eye will be a little red and may be uncomfortable. Paracetamol or similar pain relief may help to ease this discomfort. Please do not allow your child to swim until the eyes are white again. Your child may go back to school when the eyes are well open and comfortable usually 5 to 7 days later.

Your child will be reviewed in out patients one or two weeks after the surgery.

If your child wears glasses they should continue to wear them unless advised not to. Your child will be prescribed eye drops please use these as directed after carefully washing your hands.

What should I do if I need advice or information?

Staff in Ophthalmology are here to help and contactable as follows:

Eye Referral Unit

01902 695805

Mon-Fri 0845 – 1700 hrs

Weekends 0900 – 1700 hrs

Eye Emergency Department

01902 307999 ext 4486, 4488 and 4489

Mon - Fri 0830 – 1830 hrs

Sat/Sun/Bank Holidays 0830 – 1700 hrs

Orthoptics Dept

01902 695830

Mon - Fri 0830 – 1700 hrs

Alternatively outside these hours please contact NHS Direct on telephone number: 111

If you require this document in an alternative format e.g., larger print, different language etc., please inform one of the healthcare staff.

Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਉਦਾਹਰਨ ਵਜੋਂ ਵੱਡੀ ਛਪਾਈ, ਵੱਖਰੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਆਦਿ ਵਿੱਚ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ਹੋਵੇ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਸਿਹਤਸੰਭਾਲ ਕਰਮਚਾਰੀ ਨੂੰ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਕਰੋ।

Polish

Aby uzyskać niniejszy dokument w innym języku lub formacie, np. pisany dużą czcionką, itp., prosimy skontaktować się z przedstawicielem personelu medycznego.

Russian

Если данный документ требуется Вам в альтернативном формате, например крупным шрифтом, на другом языке и т.п., просьба сообщить об этом одному из сотрудников здравоохранения.

Lithuanian

Jeį pageidaujate šį dokumentą gauti kitu formatu, pvz., padidintu šriftu, išverstą į kitą kalbą ir t. t., praneškite apie tai sveikatos priežiūros darbuotojui.

Kurdish

ئەگەر ئێمە بەئێڭەنامەییە بە شێوازیکی دیکە دەخوازیت بۆ نمونە چاپی گۆرەتر، زمانیکی دیکە هتد. تکلیه یەکیک لێ کارمەندانی سەریارشتی ئەندروستی ناگادار بکەر دوه.

The prevention of infection is a major priority in all healthcare and everyone has a part to play.

- ***Wash your hands with soap and warm water and dry thoroughly. Use hand gel, if provided, in care facilities.***
- ***If you have symptoms of diarrhoea and vomiting stay at home and do not visit relatives that are vulnerable in hospital or in residential care. You will spread the illness.***
- ***Keep the environment clean and safe. Let's work together to keep it that way. Prevention is better than cure.***

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