



Adult squint surgery

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You should not drive for 48 hours after the general anaesthetic. We would advise that you may need one, or occasionally two, weeks off work. Work and normal activities can be resumed as soon as you feel comfortable to do so. It is quite safe to use your eyes for visual tasks such as reading and watching television.

Does the surgery cure the squint?

Overall, about 90% of patients find some improvement in their squint after surgery. The amount of correction that is right for one patient might be too much or too little for another with exactly the same size squint, so the squint might not be completely corrected by the operation. Although your eyes could be straight just after surgery, many patients

A cyst can develop over the site of the stitches, which occasionally needs further surgery to remove it.

Redness

The redness can take as long as three months to go away. Occasionally, the eye does not completely return to its normal colour, particularly with repeated operations.

Scarring

Most of the scarring of the conjunctiva (skin of the eye) is not noticeable by three months, but occasionally visible scars will remain, especially with repeat operations. It is important to use any drops or ointment prescribed after the operation to reduce the chance of scarring.

Lost or slipped muscle

Rarely, one of the eye muscles might slip back from its new position during the operation or shortly afterwards. If this occurs, the eye is less able to move around and, if severe, further surgery can be required. Sometimes, it is not possible to correct this. The risk of slipped muscle requiring further surgery is about one in 1,000.

Needle penetration

If the stitches are too deep or the white of the eye is thin, a small hole in the eye can occur, which could require antibiotic treatment and possibly some laser treatment to seal the puncture site. Depending on the location of the hole, the sight could be affected. The risk of the needle passing too deeply is about one in 50.

Infection

Infection is a risk with any operation and, although rare, can result in loss of the eye or vision.

Loss of vision

Although very rare, loss of vision in the eye being operated can occur from this surgery.

Risk of serious damage to the eye or vision is approximately one in 30,000.

Anaesthetic risks

Anaesthetics are usually safe, but there are small and potentially serious risks.

Unpredictable reactions occur in around one in 20,000 cases and, unfortunately, death in around one in 100,000.

Remember: these complications are detailed for your information – the vast majority of people have no significant problems.

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Pain relief

Any pain is usually relieved by taking paracetamol.

Eye drops

Eye drops will be prescribed to help keep the eye clean and to prevent infection. Before you go home, the nurse will show you how to use the drops and we will give you an information leaflet about this.

Cleaning the eyes

Do not touch the eyes but remove the secretions around the eye using boiled cooled water and the sterile gauze provided. If a sticky yellow or green discharge appears, contact the Eye Clinic, as you may have an infection.

Avoid water entering your eyes from the bath or shower for the first week.

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Contact numbers:

01271 322466 Eye Clinic Reception

01271 322469 Orthoptic Department

01271 322455 Day Surgery Unit

Useful website:

British and Irish Orthoptic Society
www.orthoaptics.org.uk

Squint Clinic
www.squintclinic.com

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern call 01271 314090 or email ndht.pals@nhs.net. You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple.

Have your say

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

'Care Opinion' comments forms are on all wards or online at www.careopinion.org.uk.

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