Opthalmology Department

What is squint?

- Squint is also called “strabismus”.
- It means that eyes are not pointing in the same direction.
- It may be present all or some of the time.
- It may show in one eye only or swap between two eyes.

Possible reasons for squint surgery

- To align the eyes and improve the appearance.
- To allow eyes to work together and improve depth perception (3D vision).
- To relieve double vision.
- To improve abnormal position of the head or neck.

What happens during surgery?

There are six different muscles attached to the eyeball and squint surgery involves adjusting the balance of these muscles by moving the muscles. These muscles are attached close to the front of the eye under a thin film called conjunctiva.

Your eye doctor will advise you which muscle needs to be operated on, to correct your squint.

Squint Surgery

Squint surgery is usually a day case procedure (in and out of the hospital on the same day).

Squint surgery is done under general anaesthesia (you are put to sleep), so you will be booked a pre-assessment appointment where you will have a basic health check to assess your fitness for surgery. Details of fasting information before surgery and risks of general anaesthesia will also be discussed with you.

Squint surgery is usually done with dissolvable stitches so the eye may be red for weeks. Squint surgery may be done on the squinting eye or the other eye or both eyes.

Types of Squint Surgery

There are two kinds of squint surgery:

Non-Adjustable Squint Surgery

Different squint surgeries take different times, depending on the number of muscles that need surgery. The total time in theatre may be longer because of the anaesthetic time.

Adjustable Squint Surgery

This involves the main operation which is performed under general anaesthesia and then adjustment which is done later with you awake, with some eye drops of anaesthesia to numb the eye so that you do not feel pain but you still might feel pressure sensation. The adjustment might be done the same day when you are fully awake and can look at a target or next day in the eye clinic

Results of Squint Surgery

90% of the patients feel better after squint surgery. Sometimes, one operation does not fully straighten the eye and another operation may be needed.

Sometimes, although the eye might be aligned properly after squint surgery, the squint may return later on and drift the eye either in the same or opposite direction requiring further squint surgery.

Risks and Complication of Squint Surgery

- Under correction: Squint may not be corrected enough.
- Overcorrection: Squint may be corrected too much and it may turn the other way.
- Diplopia: You may have double vision after the operation which often settles in the first few days but can last longer and very occasionally be permanent. If so, further treatment might be needed.
- Infection: There is a very small risk of postoperative infection which may require further treatment.
- Serious complication: This is rare. There is a very small risk of making the situation worse or damaging the sight in the eye. This may require further urgent surgery.

If you are concerned about any of these complications, please discuss this with the eye doctor, prior to the surgery.

Postoperative Care

- We might give you eye drops to take home after squint surgery, which will help the eye to heal.
- The operated eye may be a little uncomfortable for a few days after the operation but is not usually painful. Paracetamol or Ibuprofen can be taken.
- Eyelids tend to become sticky and crusted around the eyelashes following squint surgery usually in the morning. You can use boiled cooled water and a clean cloth/ flannel to clean the operated eye.

Do's and Don'ts after Squint Surgery

- Work and normal activities including sport can be resumed as soon as you feel comfortable to do so.
- The white area of the eye will look red after the operation but usually settles within 3 months.
- Avoid swimming for 4 weeks after the operation.
- Continue wearing your glasses after squint surgery.
- Avoid contact lens wear in the operated eye until you are advised, it is safe by your eye doctor/ orthoptist/ contact lens specialist.
- Driving: Most people are fine to drive after squint surgery. Please discuss this with your doctor.

Follow up after Squint Surgery

A follow up will be made for you with the orthoptists and the eye doctor, usually at 2 weeks after the surgery.

If at any point you have any further questions or any comments about this leaflet or the service you have received you can contact :

Huddersfield Royal Infirmary (01484) 343235
or
Calderdale Royal Hospital (01422) 222414

between 9.00 am – 4.30 pm.

www.cht.nhs.uk

If you would like this information in another format or language contact the above.

Potřebujete-li tyto informace v jiném formátu nebo jazyce, obraťte se prosím na výše uvedené oddělení

Jeżeli są Państwo zainteresowani otrzymaniem tych informacji w innym formacie lub wersji językowej, prosimy skontaktować się z nami, korzystając z ww. danych kontaktowych

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਪਾਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ,
ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਦਿਤਤਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور فارمیٹ یا زبان میں درکار ہوں، تو
براۓ مہربانی مندرجہ بالا شعبے میں ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔

"إذا احتجت الحصول على هذه المعلومة بشكل مغاير أو مترجمة إلى لغة مختلفة فيرجى منك الاتصال بالقسم المذكور أعلاه"