

Patient Information

Squint surgery for children

Pre-operative information

Your child has a date to come in for squint surgery.

Your child will be having day case surgery which means they will come into hospital for their operation and be able to go home the same day.

If your child has an infection, such as chicken pox, or a high temperature before the date of the surgery please contact the children's ward on 01432 364163.

Please telephone the children's ward on the above number the evening before the operation to confirm a bed is available and when last food and drink can be given.

What do I need to bring for my child?

- All current medicines/ inhalers your child is using and give to the nurse on the ward when you arrive.
- Glasses.
- Loose clothing for theatre.
- Dressing gown (if you have one).
- Loose outdoor clothes to go home in.
- A box of tissues
- A note of any drug allergies
- One cuddly toy (there are plenty of toys on the ward) and/or a comforter
- Own special cup if one is used.

Valuables

Please do not bring any valuables with you as the Hospital does not accept any liability for damage or loss.

If your child wears jewellery it needs to be removed and left at home. Please also remove nail polish from your child's finger and toe nails.

Other children/ relatives

Please do not bring other family members with you. We welcome parents but space is limited for other visitors. Tea and coffee is available for parents in the parent's unit kitchen. Other refreshments are available from the Spires restaurant on the first floor (between 9am to 2.30pm) or the Costa coffee shop on the ground floor (between 7.30am to 7.30pm).

Can I stay with my child?

We encourage you to stay with your child. Please make arrangements for the care of any other children for the whole day.

What sort of anaesthetic will it be?

All squint surgery in children is done under a general anaesthetic.

This means that your child will be asleep throughout the operation.

As your child will be having an anaesthetic you must starve him/her for 6 hours before the operation. The ward will advise you when you ring the day before surgery when last food and drink can be given.

What does the operation involve?

Squint surgery is the repositioning of the muscles. This involves making a small incision in the tissue covering the eye, which allows the surgeon to access the underlying muscles. The eyeball is NEVER removed from the socket. The eye may be padded immediately after surgery and is removed when the child wakes up.

After the procedure

Your child will be able to have something to drink and eat, but please wait until you have spoken to a nurse before giving them anything. The nurse or doctor looking after your child will decide when they can go home. You will have a follow-up appointment with the Orthoptist and consultant approximately two weeks after the surgery.

Drops

- You will be given drops to put into the eye for two weeks after the operation to avoid infection and inflammation. It is essential that these are instilled.

At home

Your child may still feel tired for the rest of the day. If they are awake they can have quiet activities such as reading or watching TV.

There may be some discomfort, pain killers can help. Calpol, disprol and paracetamol can be given. Give appropriate doses as recommended on the medication. **DO NOT GIVE ASPRIN.**

Encourage your child to take drinks regularly.

Your child will need an adult with them for the first 24 hours.

It is not unusual for your child to experience double vision for a few days.

It is possible that he/she may be nauseated and/or complain of a funny head for a few hours.

Do not

- Send to playgroup or school for one week.
- Allow him/her to join in any boisterous games, e.g. football, or ride a bike etc until two week post op appointment
- Go swimming until the post op appointment

Avoid

- Rubbing the eye.
- Getting the eye wet. Bathe rather than shower and be careful when you wash the hair
- Windy, dusty or sandy environments – e.g. sandpits, the beach.

Victoria Eye Unit, Eign Suite, Hereford County Hospital, Hereford. HR1 2ER

Telephone: 01432 355444 Ext 2925

Direct Line: 01432 372925

Issue Date: July 2012

Review Date: May 2016

Ref: Oph/02/03