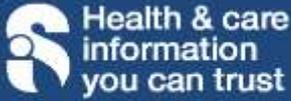


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Information

If you need this information in large print, easy read, on audiotape or in another language please call 0800 7838058 or e-mail pals@dchft.nhs.uk

If you wish to obtain a list of the sources used to develop this information leaflet please call 0800 7838058 or e-mail patient.info@dchft.nhs.uk

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Eyelid Surgery: What to expect after the Operation & Wound Care Advice

After having any operation around your eyelids, there are some steps you can take to get the best results and prevent any problems. This leaflet will tell you about what you can expect after eyelid surgery, some things to do and some things to avoid.

What to expect:

Following surgery to the eyelids, you can experience swelling and bruising ('a black eye') for at least two weeks, but this can go on for up-to two months.

There may be a little oozing or bleeding at the site of surgery in the first few hours, which should resolve by itself. If the bleeding persists or increases, then please contact the eye unit, the on call GP or the Emergency Department.

As the local anaesthetic wears off, the eyelids will feel tight. However pain after the operation is usually mild. If you experience discomfort, then please take mild painkillers such as Paracetamol. You may feel occasional sharp pain or itching of the wound – this is normal whilst healing.

Antibiotic ointment is usually prescribed to be taken after surgery. This should be applied with clean hands two times a day for (usually) seven days. This helps prevent infections and helps wound healing. The stitches are usually self-dissolving over several weeks but can be removed sooner if they are causing irritation.

Healing is a gradual process and the scar will remain pink for up to three months, after which it will fade and become pale. The area around the wound may feel numb for several weeks or months.

You will receive an appointment after the operation for follow-up in the clinic.

Do's:

An eye pad is often placed on the eye after surgery. This is usually taped on firmly and the eye should be closed under the pad. If you open the eye under the pad, it may result in a scratch to the surface of the eye so try to keep the eye shut once the pad is on. This pad may need to stay on for a few hours or until the next day, according to the instructions you are given after the operation. Removal is straightforward and all that is required is to gently peel back the tape that is holding the pad in place.

If crusting occurs, clean the wound with warm boiled water using cotton wool or cotton buds to remove the crusts and pat dry. Do not use soap. Apply a layer of ointment after this (you will have been given some after the surgery to take home).

Cool packs applied to the wound are very helpful at reducing the swelling and bruising. Apply cool packs (cold flannel/frozen peas wrapped in flannel/ice cubes in a plastic bag wrapped in a flannel) to the area as per doctor's advice.

Don'ts:

Avoid strenuous exercise, bending or heavy lifting for a few days after surgery as this can cause bleeding.

Although you may shower, please avoid getting soap on the wounds. Dab them dry afterwards and apply a layer of ointment.

Do not rub the eyelid or area of surgery as the stitches are very fine and may break.

We hope you find this information useful. If you have any other questions please do not hesitate to contact the Eye Department at Dorset County Hospital (01305 255254).