Patient & Family Guide

2016

Strabismus Repair

Aussi disponible en français :
Correction du strabisme (FF85-1715)
Strabismus Repair

Strabismus is a disorder when both eyes do not line up in the same direction, so they don’t look at the same object at the same time. Strabismus is caused by an imbalance of the eye muscles.

The medical name for your surgery is strabismus repair. The way your eye turns determines which kind of strabismus you have. Your doctor has talked with you about which muscle(s) is affected and how he or she is going to correct the problem. An adjustable suture (stitch that can be moved slightly later on) may or may not be used.

If you have any questions, please ask.

We are here to help you.
After surgery

Adjustable suture
This is used to help straighten the eye in difficult cases. Depending on the type of strabismus you have, an adjustable suture may help you. Your doctor will make this decision with you. There should be only minimal discomfort when the patch is on the eye. Drops will be placed in the eye at the time of adjustment to prevent pain. The adjustment is done in the Day Surgery Unit or a treatment room before you go home.

Dressing
You may or may not have an eye patch on your eye. Your doctor will make this decision. A patch on the eye often means that there is an adjustable suture on one or more of the operated muscles. The suture will be adjusted later in the day. The patch will be removed before you go home.
Medication
Your doctor will prescribe medication if you have any discomfort or nausea (feel sick to your stomach). Tell your nurse if you are uncomfortable.
It is a good idea to have your own supply of acetaminophen (Tylenol® No. 1) and ibuprofen for your trip from the hospital and at home.
You can use an ice pack on the operative eye area to help with any discomfort and help prevent swelling. You can use an ice pack as long and as often as you want.

Double vision
You may have double vision for a number of days after surgery. Your doctor has talked to you about this.
Do not drive if you have double vision.
Eye ointment
You will be given a tube and/or a prescription for eye ointment when you leave the hospital. This should be as much ointment as you will need.

How much ointment do I use?
Use a 1/4 inch (1 cm) strip.

How do I put the ointment in my eye?
• Look up in the mirror.
• Stretch your lower eyelid open by gently pulling it from the skin on your cheekbone.
• Put the ointment in this small pocket of skin, look down, and then let go of your eyelid.

How long will I use the ointment for?
Use the ointment in the operated eye(s) as told by your eye surgeon.
Follow up

• You will be able to go home the day of your surgery.

• Your doctor’s office will contact you for a follow-up appointment.

• Do not swim in a pool for 2 weeks. This includes public or private swimming pools.

• Do not drive or run dangerous equipment for 24 hours, or if you see double.

• You can go back to your normal activities after leaving the hospital. Your doctor may have other restrictions specific to your situation. Please ask if you have any questions.