



Children's Squint Surgery

Orthoptic Department
Pilgrim Hospital
Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm
01205 446474
www.ulh.nhs.uk

References

If you require a full list of references for this leaflet please email patient.information@ulh.nhs.uk

The Trust endeavours to ensure that the information given here is accurate and impartial.



If you require this information in another language, large print, audio (CD or tape) or braille, please email the Patient Information team at patient.information@ulh.nhs.uk

Your child has been put on the waiting list for squint surgery.

You will soon be given three dates: your pre-assessment appointment, your operation date and post op appointment.

What is the operation for?

For some children surgery is necessary, either to make the eyes work together better or to restore the eyes to a straighter position.

What does the operation involve?

Squint surgery is the repositioning of the eye muscles. This involves making a small incision in the tissue covering the eye, which allows the surgeon to get to the underlying muscles.

Possible risks from surgery

- Post operative pain and swelling around the eye which can be helped with simple paracetamol or calpol.
- Further surgery is sometimes needed to correct the squint, particularly if it is a severe squint.
- The eye may remain red for a long time after the operation. This is rare, but it may be due to scar tissue forming on the surface of the eye.
- Double vision may occur after the operation. This usually resolves itself after a week or so.
- The squint may reoccur and another operation may be needed.

Further Information

Further information can be found at:
NHS Choices: Treating a squint
www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Squint/Pages/Introduction2.aspx

- One of the eye muscles may slip after the operation, although this is very rare. This makes the eye point inwards or outwards (depending on which muscle has slipped) and can impair eye movement. It may need to be operated on again.
- In very rare cases, the inside of the eye can be damaged during surgery.
- An infection may develop after the operation. This is possible with any type of surgery and in the case of eye surgery, eye drops or ointment are used to reduce the risk.
- An over or undercorrection of the squint may occur; sometimes this is a desirable outcome based on the type of squint.

Before the operation

Your child will be given a date to attend a pre-operative appointment about 2 weeks before the planned date for surgery. The Orthoptist will check your child's vision, measure the size of the squint and assess how the 2 eyes may work together after the operation.

Please make sure your child has their glasses with them at this appointment.

Coming to the hospital

Please bring with you:

- Nightwear, including dressing gown and slippers.
- Any medication your child is using.
- A book or game to play to make any waiting time easier and a favourite comfort toy.

If the operation is in the morning, your child can eat and drink normally until bedtime the night before. They should not have anything to eat or drink on the morning of the operation.

You will need to arrive at the Children's Ward, Pilgrim Hospital by 7.45am and your child should be able to go home by teatime.

If the operation is in the afternoon, your child should not eat or drink after 7.00am.

You need to arrive at the Children's Ward, Pilgrim Hospital by 10.30am and your child should be able to go home by early evening.

We encourage that someone should stay in the hospital with your child throughout their stay as a hospital can be a strange and frightening place and a familiar face helps relieve their anxiety.

The operation

You will usually be able to stay with your child until they are asleep. You may be able to join your child again in the Recovery Room to accompany them back to the Children's ward.

After the operation

Before going home, your child will be seen by one of the eye surgeons. The ward will confirm your follow up appointment at the Royle Eye Department with the Orthoptist. This is usually 2 weeks after the operation.

Your child must not be allowed to rub the operated eye for 1 to 2 weeks to allow for the healing process.

Your child will need to use eye drops or ointment for 2 to 3 weeks after the surgery, 4 times per day. These will be given to you by the nurse before you leave the ward. Any glasses should be worn as usual, unless advised otherwise by the Orthoptist.

Very occasionally an overnight stay is needed, so arrangements should be in place at home just in case you need to stay with your child at the hospital.

Going home

You will need to take your child home by car or taxi, public transport is not suitable. If you are driving, you should arrange for someone else to be in the car to take care of your child in case they are unwell during the journey home.

After squint surgery, your child should not swim for 4 weeks and they are likely to need a few days to a week off school or nursery.

Occasionally there can be an increase in the redness of the eye post-operatively due to an allergic reaction to the eye drops. If this occurs or you have any concerns, please contact the Royle Eye Department on:

01205 445626

Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm

Alternate weekends 9.00am to 5.00pm

or

Orthoptic Department

01205 446474

Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm

If you have any concerns about your child's eye during the post operative period, please do not hesitate to contact the ophthalmic team on the numbers listed.