

Paediatric squint surgery – postoperative care and advice

Parent/Caregiver Information

Child Health Service

What to expect after the operation

Any eye patch should be removed the morning after the operation. Please do not replace it as it is important that your child's eyes need to start working together as soon as possible. Your child will be prescribed a short course of eye drops. This is to help prevent infection. Your child's eyelids should be cleaned before giving your child the eye drops (see the instruction sheet for how to do this). You can expect some swelling around your child's eyelids. Your child's eye will be red. This redness will slowly improve over the next 2-3 weeks.

Avoid touching your child's eye, and encourage your child not to touch, poke, rub or scratch their eye.

Will my child need pain relief?

Your child may experience mild pain. You can give your child Paracetamol to help with any pain they have. Make sure that you follow the instructions on the medicine bottle.

After a general anaesthetic

The effects of the anaesthetic can last for 24-48 hours. We recommend that your child rests and takes things easy during this time. Normal activities may be resumed within 2-3 days. Your child may have a slight cough from where the breathing tube irritated their throat during their anaesthetic.

Contact a Doctor for help if your child has any of the following:

- Your child is having regular pain relief and they are still in pain
- Drowsiness
- Vomiting
- Poor feeding
- Decreased vision

Please tell the doctor your child has just had squint surgery.

Your child's follow up appointment is on:

_____at:

- Eye Outpatient Department, Level 9, Grace Neil Block, Wellington Regional Hospital, OR
- Outpatient Department, Kenepuru Hospital

It is very important to come to this follow-up appointment to make sure all is well with your child's eye.

Contact us

If you have any concerns or questions regarding your child's operation please call the Eye Outpatient department, Monday to Friday 8.30am – 4 pm **Phone:** (04) 806 2675 or **Triage Nurse:** 027 4333 477

Outside of these hours please contact your General Practitioner or one of the Afterhours Medical Centres.

Please take this information with you.

Afterhours Medical Centres:

- **Kenepuru Hospital Accident & Medical.** Open 24 hours a day. **Phone 04 918 2300**
- **Paraparaumu Team Medical Coastlands Shopping Centre.** Open 8am – 10pm daily. **Phone 04 298 2228**
- **Waikanae Medical Centre.** Open Monday – Thursday 7pm – 8am and Friday 5pm – 8pm or anytime weekends and public holidays. **Phone 04 293 6002**
- **Accident and Urgent Medical Centre Wellington.** Open 8am – 11pm daily. **Phone 04 384 4944**

If you are unsure if your child needs to visit your GP or Afterhours Medical Centre you may wish to call **Health Line** for free advice. Open 24 hours a day. **Phone 0800 611 116.**