

Post-operative follow up

You will be given eye drops to put in which will help to settle any swelling as quickly as possible.

Our advice is not to swim for two weeks to reduce the risk of infection, but this can be up to six weeks if the eye still looks red or inflamed.

They will be seen in the eye clinic two weeks after the operation to check the eye is settling down and again at three months to check on the final position of the eyes.

Contact details of the ward: **0300 019 6234**.

Children's Squint Surgery

To read this leaflet in a different language, please visit our website:
www.uhd.nhs.uk/visit/patient-information-leaflets and use the language
and accessibility function available along the top of the site.

To ask for this leaflet in larger print, please contact the patient experience team
on **0300 019 8499** or email **uhd.patientexperienceteam@nhs.net**.

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Paediatric Care Parent and Patient Information

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Preparing for your child's squint surgery

We hope this information will be helpful to you and your child. Please do not hesitate to ask if you have any questions.

Who is involved?

Paediatric Ophthalmologist: A surgeon specialised in treating children's eye problems.

Orthoptist: A professional trained in the assessment of vision and squints in children.

Paediatric Nurse: A nurse specialised in looking after children.

Anaesthetist: A doctor specialised in giving an anaesthetic and pain control

Pre-operative Assessment

1. Your child will need to attend an appointment with the orthoptist and consultant where you can discuss the surgery involved. The angle of your child's squint will be remeasured at this appointment.
2. You will also be sent a one hour appointment with a paediatric nurse 1-2 weeks prior to surgery. Details about your child and their health will be taken, and a plan of their care on the ward and at home will be fully discussed with you. This includes the explanation about the child not eating and drinking before surgery.
3. Where possible, please make sure the adult coming with the child to these appointments is the adult who will be with them on the day of surgery. The adult must have parental responsibility to consent for surgery.

On the day of surgery

1. Please come to the Children's ward on the 1st floor of the Eye Unit at 7.30 am.
2. Your child will be seen by the anaesthetist before the operation, who will also answer any questions you may have.
3. One parent/carer may go with their child to the operating theatre, with the nurse. They may stay with the child until they are asleep.
4. The operation takes approximately 45 minutes but this depends upon the surgery involved.
5. Once your child has woken up in the recovery room, they will return to the ward where their parents will be waiting. Once the nurse has assessed them the child will be offered a drink and then something to eat.
6. Your child's eyes will be sore immediately after surgery and they will want to keep them closed for a while. The 'whites' of the eyes will be red for two - three weeks after the operation. The stitches in the eye will dissolve on their own. Paracetamol and Ibuprofen are good painkillers to have at home and you will be advised as to the plan of giving painkillers to your child at home.
7. When your child is awake and has had something to eat and drink, and the nurse and parents are happy, they can go home. This is usually mid to late afternoon.
8. We advise that your child does not go to playschool/school for seven days after the squint operation. A parent or adult well known to your child should be available to care for your child whilst they are recovering at home.
9. On the operation day we strongly advise that there is a second adult in the car to look after the child on the way home. We strongly advise you do not travel by bus or train.