

Glaucoma Valve (Ahmed or other)

Ophthalmology Clinic

4480 Oak Street, Vancouver, BC V6H 3V4
604-875-2040 Fax: 604-875-3561
www.bcchildrens.ca

What to expect after surgery

Pain

- The surgery is uncomfortable and it is normal to need pain control with acetaminophen (Tylenol) in the first 48 hours. Some of the discomfort relates to the tiny stitches which can feel a little bit gritty under the eyelid with each blink.
- Medications like aspirin or ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin) can make bleeding worse so it is best to use Tylenol.

Light Sensitivity

- It is normal to have some light sensitivity for the first few days which can be relieved by using sunglasses or a hat.

Watering and Discharge

- It is normal to have some watering and some crusting on the eyelids in the morning for the first few days.

Appearance of the Eye

- There may occasionally be a small amount of blood collected inside the eye on the first post-operative day. This is not a worry; the blood clears in the first few days but may take up to a week.
- The white of the eye (conjunctiva) may be a little bit red. This should gradually decrease.

- The pupil is enlarged in the operated eye; this is the effect of the Atropine or Cyclopentolate drops (red top) which are prescribed to be given for 4 to 6 weeks after surgery. This helps the operation be successful. These drops can cause the vision to be blurred especially when looking at close-up objects.

Vision

- Often the vision is still blurred at the start and may remain blurred until you have received updated glasses or contact lenses.

Wound Care

- At the end of the surgery, the eye will be padded and protected by a plastic shield. The pad is usually removed and discarded the first day after the operation, by your surgeon. The shield is kept for wearing at night for the first two weeks.
- Protect the eye from trauma and avoid straining if at all possible.
- Rubbing should be discouraged because the eye is fragile. The shield should be worn if it is not possible to control this. You should keep your child's hands clean in case they do rub their eye.
- You will be given a prescription for drops. Use as directed by your doctor.
- ***Always wash your hands before and after caring for your surgical site.***

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Activity

- Your child should avoid vigorous activity for two weeks after the operation.
- They should avoid swimming for six weeks.
- It is okay to have a shower or bath; avoid getting water into the eyes by washing hair backwards and using a washcloth to wash their face.



Contact Information

- After hours, phone the Ophthalmology resident on call: 604-875-2161, ask for "Ophthalmology ON CALL".
- If there is an emergency and you cannot contact your surgeon's office or "Ophthalmology on call", please call 9-1-1 or go to the emergency department at BC Children's Hospital.



When to See Your Child's Doctor/Go to the Emergency If...

- Some mild pain, blurred vision, redness, watering, light sensitivity and crusting are normal and should gradually improve day by day. However, if these are severe or worsening you should see your doctor as soon as possible.
- If your child develops nausea and vomiting with headache-like pain they should also be seen as soon as possible.
- There are signs of infection such as increased pain, increased eye or eyelid swelling after postoperative day 3, with a fever greater than 38.0C



Follow up

- You may already have a follow-up appointment booked with your child's surgeon. If not, please contact their office, at your earliest convenience, for your appointment.

Additional Instructions:
