

Goniotomy

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

- It is normal to have some pain for a few days and to have a feeling like there is something in the eye. This should gradually decrease and can be controlled with painkillers like acetaminophen (Tylenol). Medications like aspirin or ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin) can make bleeding worse and should be avoided.

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 is usually a small amount of blood collected inside the eye on the first post-operative day. You may notice a red fluid level settling down in front of the coloured part of the eye (iris). This is nothing to worry about and is expected. The blood clears in the first few days, but may take up to a week.
- Frequent follow-up visits are required until the blood has gone. The white of the eye (conjunctiva) may be a bit red and this should gradually decrease.

- The pupil is small in the operated eye; this is the effect of the Pilocarpine drops (green top) which are prescribed to be given for 6 weeks after the surgery. This helps the operation be successful. This medication may cause a brow-ache and blur the vision in the distance.

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

- After the operation, 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.
- If your child doesn't have glasses, you should also wear the shield during the day to provide protection.
- Start the post op drops, as prescribed by your surgeon, when the pad comes off. When more than one eye drop has been prescribed and they are to be taken at the same time, allow a few minutes between drops.
- Rubbing should be discouraged as much as possible. The eye is fragile. You should keep your child's hands clean in case they do rub their eye.
- ***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 four weeks.
- It is okay to have a shower or bath but avoid getting water into the eyes by washing hair backwards and using a washcloth to wash their face.
- Your child may read, watch TV and “use their eyes” in a normal way, without fear of injuring them.



Contact Information

- After hours, phone the Ophthalmology resident on call:
 - 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 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:
