Trabeculectomy Surgery for Glaucoma

Information for patients, relatives and carers

ℹ️ For more information and advice if experiencing problems, please contact:

**Ophthalmology Department**

Monday to Friday    9am to 5pm
Willow Ward, Scarborough Hospital
Woodlands Drive, Scarborough, YO12 6QL
Tel: 01723 342215

or

Weekdays after 5pm, Weekends and Bank Holidays
The York Hospital
Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE
Tel: 01904 631313

Ask for operator and then ask for the ophthalmic nurse or doctor on call
Our Values: Caring about what we do • Respecting and valuing each other
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Introduction to the eye

(Diagrams adapted from images taken from International Glaucoma Association website)
Behind the cornea is the iris - the coloured part of the eye - with the pupil forming a hole in its centre.

The space between the cornea and the iris is filled with a clear fluid, called 'aqueous humour', which maintains the pressure in the eye (the intraocular pressure).

The pressure is determined by a balance between the fluid entering and leaving the eye.
What is Glaucoma?

Glaucoma is the name given to a group of conditions that are often associated with a rise in pressure within the eye. This can cause damage to the optic nerve at the back of the eye and result in permanent loss of vision.

For some people, surgery might be the best treatment for glaucoma. Your ophthalmologist may suggest surgery as an option, usually after trying medication to lower the pressure in the eye or after trying laser treatment.

There are several different types of surgery for glaucoma. The kind of surgery you and your ophthalmologist decide is right for you will depend upon on many factors, including the type and severity of your glaucoma, previous treatment and other eye problems or health conditions.
Filtering Surgery

The most common type of surgery for glaucoma is filtering surgery (trabeculectomy). A small incision is made in the sclera (the white of the eye). Fluid slowly leaks from this incision into a "bleb," which is a covered space made in the conjunctiva (the thin, transparent tissue that covers the outer surface of the eye). The fluid in the bleb is slowly reabsorbed by the eye.

The aim of this operation is to lower the pressure in the eye, it is important to understand that it is not an operation to improve sight. Initially your vision may be (adversely) affected by the operation but if the intra-ocular pressure is well controlled by the surgery, it will help to maintain your sight in the future.
As with all surgery, there are risks associated with glaucoma surgery. Complications can include:

- Infection
- Bleeding
- Low eye pressure
- Changes in your vision or loss of vision
- Failure of the operation to control the intraocular pressure
- Cataract formation may be accelerated
- Some of the complications may affect your vision, although in many cases this is temporary. Some patients may require repeat surgery and/or continued treatment with glaucoma medication.
What Do I Need To Do Before My Surgery?

Make sure you understand the risks and the benefits of the surgery. Here are some questions you may like to ask:

- What are the other treatment options I could consider?
- What will happen if I choose not to have the surgery?
- Will I need further treatment after my surgery (i.e. medication or further surgery)?
- What change should I expect in my condition after surgery?
- What kind of anaesthetic will I have?
- Who will be carrying out my operation?
- Approximately how much time will I need to take off work?

Please do not be afraid to ask questions, if you have any unanswered questions please do not hesitate to ask, even on the day of surgery.
Before your admission

- You must inform the Willow Ward if you are taking Warfarin at least one week before proposed surgery.

- Please take a bath or shower the night before the admission.

- Arrange for you to be accompanied by a relative or friend and driven by car or taxi to and from the hospital. Public transport is not suitable to travel home on.

- If you are to be a day case, please make sure that you have someone to stay with you overnight for safety reasons. You will not be able to see clearly from the operated eye immediately following surgery.

- Also, you will need someone to provide transport to and from the frequent follow-up appointments.
- An overnight stay in hospital may be necessary if you do not have anyone to stay with you overnight but the waiting time for surgery may be longer due to the lack of available beds.

- Please bring all your medications with you in their packets or bottles and take your medication as normal, including your glaucoma medication.

- If you are having your operation under local anaesthetic, you may have a light breakfast or lunch before you come in.

- Most operations are done under local anaesthesia but if you have chosen to have a general anaesthesia, you will have been asked to attend pre-assessment clinic where the nurse will give you advice about fasting for surgery. If you have been told not to eat before surgery, it is very important you follow that instruction.

- The pre-assessment nurse will also give advice to those patients who are insulin-dependent regarding the insulin dose they should take if fasting.

- If you wear a hearing aid, please bring it with you.

- Our Trust recommends you leave valuables, such as money or jewellery, at home. You may not be allowed to take these items into the operating theatre.
Day of Surgery

You will be admitted to the Willow Ward on the day of your operation. On your arrival to the ward, the nurses will introduce themselves, explain what will happen during your stay, and give you an approximate time for someone to collect you. Unfortunately, there is not enough room on the ward for visitors to wait but if you have any particular concerns regarding this, please contact the ward beforehand to discuss this.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to ask the nurse at this point.

Before Surgery

You will be given the opportunity to use the toilet and then asked to put on a theatre gown – there is no need to undress unless you are undergoing a general anaesthesia or sedation. The nurse will instil some eye drops to prepare the eye for surgery and to numb (anaesthetise) the eye. You will receive more anaesthetic in theatre at the start of surgery.
During Surgery

When you go into theatre, you will be asked to lie flat on a theatre trolley and the surgeon will ensure your head is in a suitable position for surgery. You will be asked whether this position is comfortable, as this position needs to be maintained for the duration of the surgery (approximately 45 minutes). A pillow will be placed under your knees to take the strain off your back.

You will have a lightweight plastic drape placed over your eyes to provide a sterile environment for the surgery. This drape will not cover your nose or mouth and will be supported by a metal bar that emits oxygen to ensure there is plenty of airflow.

You will have a nurse sitting alongside you once the drape is in place and she will hold your hand. You will be asked to communicate by squeezing on the nurse’s hand if you require anything during surgery.

Local anaesthetic will be given at the start of the procedure. This may sting briefly and cause a slight pressure behind the eye. After the anaesthetic has started working, you are unlikely to feel any pain; however if you do feel discomfort let the surgeon know by squeezing the nurse’s hand.

The operation normally lasts less than one hour and at the end, you will be given antibiotics and another anaesthetic into your eye to keep you comfortable after surgery. A plastic shield will be placed over the eye for protection.
After Surgery

Back on the ward, you will be given some light refreshments. The nurse will give you advice about your eye drops and any particular instructions from the surgeon.

When you have recovered, you will be able to go home with the relative or friend who has accompanied you.

If you have received a general anaesthetic or sedation, you will need to remain in hospital for a few hours until the nurses are satisfied that you have fully recovered and are fit to go home to the care of a responsible adult for the following 24 hours.

The surgeon will see you to assess your eye usually one or two days after surgery and frequently during the first two to three weeks.
At Home

- You will usually be required to instil three different types of eye drops (see chart towards the back of this booklet) and these drops will be issued to you on the day of surgery.

- Any drops used previously on the affected eye should not be used after surgery – the surgeon will advise you at follow-up regarding future glaucoma drops should there be a need for them.

- If you use glaucoma drops for your other eye, continue with these as normal as this eye is unaffected by surgery.

- Some itching and discomfort is normal following surgery and your eye may appear angry initially. You may take a pain-relieving tablet such as Paracetamol to relieve this.

- **Never** rub your eye – keep the shield on for the rest of the day, wearing it overnight – this is to protect your eye. You may take it off during the following days but you need to replace it at night for the first five nights.

- Do not sleep face down, as this will put pressure on the operated eye.
• Please back wash your hair for the first two to three weeks to avoid irritation from shampoo.

• Do not wash around the eye with flannels or allow your face to be blasted by the force of the shower.

• If you need to bathe the eye, use cooled boiled water - gently bathe across the closed lids to remove any dried mucus or crusting using soft kitchen tissue, do not use cotton wool.

• If you use eye makeup, please avoid it for at least two weeks following surgery. If using a mascara brush, you will need to resume after the two weeks with a new one to reduce any risk of cross infection.

• Do not lift anything heavy or perform vigorous exercise for at least one month as this will put a strain on the wound and may interfere with the pressure in the eye.

• You may continue with your normal light activities and it is advisable to spend short periods of time resting to allow your eye to heal. Your surgeon will advise you when to resume more strenuous physical activities and sports such as swimming.

• You will need to check with your surgeon about when to resume driving, as this will depend upon the sight in your other eye meeting the legal requirement for driving.
• You can read, watch television, and use your computer as long as your eye feels comfortable.

• Stitch (suture) adjustment – you may need to have a suture removed from your eye or you may have one or two sutures lasered. This will be done at Scarborough out-patients clinic and is a quick and painless procedure.

• During the first few weeks, you can expect frequent follow-up appointments, after this, the need for frequent visits is less.

• Work – you are likely to be off work for the first two weeks, although this could change depending upon your recovery.

Finally

If your eye becomes painful, discharges and/or your vision rapidly deteriorates, please contact the hospital straight away for advice – do not leave it until your next clinic appointment. The contact telephone numbers are on the front cover of this book.
# Medication Chart

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<tr>
<td>Chloramphenicol (keep in fridge)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pred forte (shake bottle)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cyclopentolate (keep in fridge)</td>
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Tell us what you think

We hope that you found this leaflet helpful. If you would like to tell us what you think, please contact: Rosaleen Kitchen, Staff Nurse, Willow Ward, Scarborough Hospital, Woodlands Drive, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, YO12 6QL, telephone 01723 342215 or email rosaleen.kitchen@york.nhs.uk.

Teaching, Training and Research

Our Trust is committed to teaching, training and research to support the development of staff and improve health and healthcare in our community. Staff or students in training may attend consultations for this purpose. You can opt-out if you do not want trainees to attend. Staff may also ask you to be involved in our research.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

Patients, relatives and carers sometimes need to turn to someone for help, advice or support. Our PALS team is here for you.

PALS can be contacted on 01904 726262, or via email at pals@york.nhs.uk.

An answer phone is available out of hours.
Please telephone or email if you require this information in a different language or format

如果你要求本資訊是以不同的語言或版式提供，請致電或寫電郵

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Braille  Audio e.g. CD
Large print  Electronic

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