

Patient information

Evisceration

What is an evisceration?

An evisceration is the removal of the eye contents. The conjunctiva (white part of the eye), optic nerve and the muscles of the eye are left in place.

Why is the operation performed?

The operation is normally performed because an eye is blind and painful. This may be because of disease or trauma. The operation is rarely undertaken, and only when all other eye treatments have failed.

Anaesthetic

This operation may be carried out either under a local or general anaesthetic. During the operation the surgeon will insert an implant. The purpose of the implant is to keep the shape of the socket. When healing has taken place a prosthesis (artificial eye) can then be fitted.

What do you look like after the operation?

When looking into the mirror you will see a clear shell. This covers the incision. Initially the area will be inflamed, ie red. Eye drops will help improve this, as will time. When the socket has fully healed it will look and feel like the inside of a mouth, ie red and moist.

How long does it take for healing to take place?

You will be reviewed in clinic on a monthly basis. Normally healing takes approximately three months. After this time your consultant will refer you to the National Artificial Eye Service for fitting and measuring of a prosthesis (artificial eye).

Possible complications after the operation

- Infection
- Lid swelling which is common; this settles down without treatment
- Wound separation / splitting. If this happens you need to contact the hospital immediately. You will require another operation to repair the area.
- Chemosis, ie swelling of the conjunctiva and wound area. This will settle down with the help of the antibiotic drops
- Allergy to drops

How do you care for your socket after the operation?

There may be some discomfort although this varies between patients. You will have to instil drops after the operation to prevent infection and to settle down the inflammation. You may take painkillers, i.e. Paracetamol; should you require any stronger painkillers your GP can supply you with a prescription.

Some patients experience a sensation as if they still have their eye and may get temporary visual hallucinations.

Can I continue to drive?

The law requires you to inform the DVLA and your insurance company of any changes in your health or sight. You must be able to read a number plate at 20.3 metres (25 yards) and should not have any problems with the other eye. You must not restart driving until your consultant has advised that you may do so.

Contact details

Eye Treatment Centre

Telephone: 01284 713815

Monday to Thursday 9.00am to 5.00pm and Friday 9.00am to 1.00pm

At the weekends and out of hours: Telephone 01284 713000 and ask to speak to the 'on call' ophthalmic doctor

If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the website for AccessAble (formerly DisabledGo)

<https://www.accessable.co.uk>



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