

After the operation

- The eye may feel uncomfortable and red, this should improve over the next few weeks. The redness can take up to 8 weeks to resolve.
- Eye drops or ointment will be prescribed after the operation to help the eye recover.
- Return to school is usually possible after a few days.
- Swimming should be avoided for 2 weeks.
- Glasses should be worn as normal afterwards. Patching may be resumed 2-4 weeks after the operation. Your orthoptist will advise you on this.

Please note:

Squint surgery will not improve the vision, just the position and/or the control of the eyes.

Glasses and patching are to improve visual development; surgery is not suitable for this.

If you have any questions, please contact the **Orthoptic Department** on:

01225 824614

Please leave a message and we will ring you back.

For more information about general squint surgery visit www.squintclinic.com

Orthoptic Department B29
Royal United Hospital
Combe Park
Bath
BA1 3NG

Royal United Hospitals Bath
NHS Foundation Trust
Combe Park, Bath BA1 3NG
01225 428331 www.ruh.nhs.uk

Please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) if you require this leaflet in a different format, or would like to feedback your experience of the hospital.

Email: ruh-tr.pals@nhs.net or telephone 01225 825656 or 826319

Squint Surgery Paediatric



Why Have Surgery?

Your Orthoptist / Consultant has decided that your child will benefit from an operation to either:

- Improve the cosmetic appearance of the eyes by reducing the size of the squint.

Or

- To enable the eyes to work together, in some cases relieving double vision.

If the orthoptist feels it's appropriate, your child will be added to the waiting list for squint surgery and you will receive a letter confirming this. Whilst on the waiting list an appointment with the consultant will be arranged to discuss the surgery further and complete a consent form. When your child reaches the top of the list you will be contacted and a surgery date arranged.

Before the operation

Your child's orthoptic/ optometry appointments will continue as normal whilst they are on the waiting list. An orthoptic follow-up will be arranged within 3 months of the date of surgery. If your child has not had an orthoptic appointment within 3 months when you receive a surgery date, please contact the team. A medical assessment to ensure your child is well enough for surgery will usually take place on the day of surgery.

The operation

Squint surgery is carried out as a day case. The surgery itself lasts about 30 minutes. A general anaesthetic is used which means that your child will be asleep during the operation and may be in theatre for up to two hours. Normally your child will go home on the same day.

- There are 6 different muscles attached to the eyeball, some of these may be weakened or strengthened to make the eye straighter. This involves making a small incision into the tissue covering the eye.
- The eye is not taken out during surgery. It is attached to the optic nerve which is not elastic.
- The surgery is often carried out on the squinting eye but as the squint is an imbalance between the two eyes it is quite common to operate on both eyes. The consultant/ orthoptist will discuss the best option for your child at the time of listing for surgery.

Risks

Severe risks/ side-effects during squint operations are rare:

- Redness (bleeding) on the white of the eye, this is quite common and gets better by itself.
- There is a small risk of post-operative infection requiring antibiotic treatment.
- Double vision is almost always temporary, but may require further surgery to correct.
- Under/ overcorrection - There is a small risk of under/ overcorrection that could require further surgery.
- As with any operation, there is a small risk associated with a general anaesthetic. However the risk of anaesthetic complications in a healthy child is very low. A specialist paediatric anaesthetist will look after your child during the operation.
- Slipped muscle - very rarely a stitch used to fix the muscle in place may give way after the operation. This may require further surgery to remedy.
- Damage to the eye - extremely rare but serious complication which can cause bleeding or infection inside the eye which can have a permanent effect on eyesight.