

**Information for Patients**

**Adjustable Squint Surgery**

**The Eye Unit**

### **What is a squint?**

A squint occurs when one eye does not look in the same direction as the other. The eyes stop working together as a pair. Where the squint is noticeable surgery may help correct this.

### **Aim of surgery**

- To improve the cosmetic appearance of the eyes (not necessarily to make them 'straight').
- To improve the ability of the two eyes to work together as a pair. It is not always possible to achieve this.
- To relieve symptoms of double vision.
- To relieve an uncomfortable head position.

### **What does the operation involve?**

The surgeon will operate on the muscles that move the eye by altering their position (to weaken them) or shortening them (to strengthen them). This may be done on:-

- One or two muscles of one eye.
- One muscle in each eye. This may mean surgery is performed on the 'good' eye.
- Occasionally three or four muscles are operated on at the same time.

This part of the surgery is done under general anaesthetic. When the general anaesthetic has 'worn off' the squint will be measured. It may be that no adjustment is needed.

### **The adjustment**

If an adjustment is needed you are not put under a general anaesthetic again.

Topical anaesthetic drops are used to numb the surface of the eye and the surgeon will either tighten or loosen the stitches to put the eyes in the best position.

### **Why has adjustable surgery been recommended?**

- There may be a risk of significant over or under correction of the squint. This would result in a poor appearance post-operatively.
- There may be a risk of significant double vision following surgery.

- If you have previously had squint surgery, this can make further surgery less predictable.

For further information about the surgery please ask the Orthoptist, or ask for a 'Patients on the waiting list for squint surgery' leaflet.

**Notes**

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