Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

Patient Information

Enucleation / Evisceration

Eye Unit

Enucleation - of the eye involves removal of the whole eye.

Evisceration - of the eye involves removal of the contents of the eye.

The treatment/care of the patient is the same for either of the above operations. Your Ophthalmologist will have discussed the reasons why you need to have this operation.

What happens now?
You will be asked to attend the "Assessment Clinic" before you are admitted for your operation. The assessment sister will take details about your general health and tell you what to expect when you are admitted.

You will have some routine investigations such as blood pressure, blood samples etc., the results will be needed by the doctors when you are admitted.

If your operation is urgent, you may be admitted straight to the ward.

What does the operation involve?
You will be admitted to a ward for up to 2 nights. The operation will be performed under a general anaesthetic (while you are asleep).

You may feel some discomfort following the operation but you will be given adequate pain relief.

Following surgery, you will have a pad and bandage over the operated area.

Following surgery
Approximately 48 hours after the surgery the consultant will remove the dressing and examine the wound. A temporary clear hard plastic shell may be fitted either at this stage or at your first outpatient appointment.

You do not have to remove the shell yourself as it is there to keep the shape of the socket. You will be fitted with a permanent artificial eye (usually 8 - 12 weeks following the operation, when the wound has settled down).

You will be referred to the Artificial Eye Services at Rookwood Hospital in Cardiff.

What should I expect after my eye has been removed?
Initially, when you open your lids you will see the moist, pink socket lined with conjunctiva. It will look like the inside of your mouth.

Cleaning your eye lids
This is very important as it lessens the risk of infection.

Dissolve 1/2 teaspoon of salt in 1/2 pint of boiled water. When cooled dip a cotton wool ball into the solution and wipe along your lid starting at the end nearer your nose. Discard the cotton wool. **Repeat until lids are clean**.

You will be given antibiotic cream to use 3 to 4 times a day. A district nurse will be arranged to do this and she will then help you to do it yourself.

Paracetamol is usually adequate for pain relief.

Do I need to cover the operated side while awaiting my artificial eye?
This is a personal choice, you do not have to cover the area, but if you prefer to, then you can choose to use an eye patch or cover your spectacles with tape on the affected side.

Eye Out-patient visit
You will be seen in the eye out-patient department as arranged by the ward about 1 week after the operation.

If you have not had a temporary shell fitted it will be done at this time.

Referral for prosthesis
You will be referred to Rookwood Hospital in Cardiff where the artificial eye service is based. They will make you an artificial eye (called a prosthesis), it will be specially hand painted to match your other eye.

Remember! You should try and lead a normal life.

Where can I obtain further advice?

If you require further information or advice please contact:-

For advice before your surgery Contact:
Pre Assessment Department on: - 01633 656261
Following Operation for any concerns contact:

Emergency Eye Clinic on: - 01633 238856 8:30am-5:30pm or

Ophthalmology Doctor on call via the switchboard

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Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg".