

Patient Information

Glaucoma & Trabeculectomy

Eye Unit

Your questions answered...

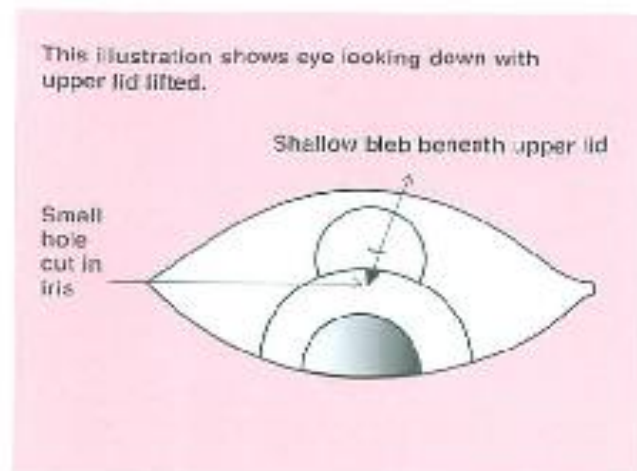
The glaucomas are a family of conditions with characteristic visual field (side vision) defects and optic disc damage with raised eye pressure being the biggest risk factor. If left untreated, this can result in blindness.

How is glaucoma treated?

Glaucoma can be treated effectively in most cases with eye drops, which have to be instilled everyday throughout your life-time. If treatment with eye drops fails to control the pressure in the eye, laser treatment may be effective in some cases or an operation called trabeculectomy may be necessary.

What is Trabeculectomy?

This is an operation that allows fluid inside the eye to leak out gradually under the outer lining of the eyeball, forming a small bubble (bleb). From this, the fluid finds its way into the blood stream. A tiny hole is made in the iris as well.



The operation can be performed either under a local anaesthetic or general anaesthetic and takes about 40 minutes to perform.

Will the operation improve my sight?

Unfortunately the operation cannot bring back any sight that has been lost. The operation is not to improve your vision, but to prevent any further worsening.

After the operation, your sight may be blurred and may seem worse. This is only a temporary situation and is to be expected. It may take about 8 weeks for the eye to settle down after surgery and you will need your glasses changed.

How successful is the operation?

It is a very successful operation to save the remaining sight of the eye. You can expect that in approximately:-

- 80% of cases, no further treatment is needed.
- 15% of cases, drops to reduce pressure will still be needed.
- 5% of cases, a further operation is necessary.

Are there any potential problems?

- There is a small risk of bleeding in the eye at the time of surgery. If it occurs, it will gradually clear.
- The operation can be initially unpredictable with a small risk of over-drainage or under-drainage. This usually settles, but may need extra treatment.
- There is a very rare risk of late infection. If the eye becomes red and painful, contact the Eye Department urgently.
- You may develop a cataract or if you have one it will get worse.

How long do I have to stay in hospital?

Usually a one night stay is normal. If you have any complications, your discharge may be delayed, but usually only for a few days.

Following surgery **do....**

- read
- watch TV
- go for walks
- cook
- wear glasses / sunglasses in the day
- wear an eye shield for 2 weeks at night
- rest and take things easy
- put eye drops into operated, eye as instructed

- continue drops to the operated eye as before
- report to the Eye Department straight away if the eye becomes increasingly painful or vision deteriorates dramatically

Following surgery **DO NOT.....**

- rub your eye
- undertake strenuous exercise
- do heavy gardening
- spring clean
- swim

Where can I obtain further advice?

If you require further information or advice please contact:-

EEC on:-

Tel. No:- 01633 – 238856

Between 8.30am – 5.30pm

Or

Ophthalmology Doctor on call via the switchboard

**“This document is available in Welsh /
Mae’r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg”.**