

Patient information

Glaucoma Drainage Implant Surgery and Patch Graft

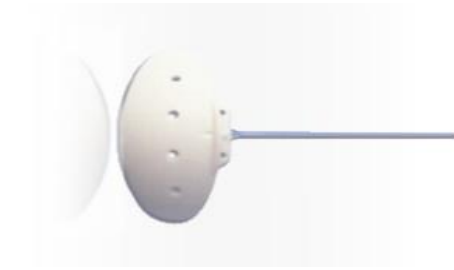
Ophthalmology Department- Aintree Hospital

Who is this leaflet for?

People with glaucoma or high eye pressures who are having Glaucoma Drainage Implant Surgery.

What is Glaucoma Drainage Implant Surgery?

A surgical procedure to stitch an artificial drain onto the eye to improve drainage.



A What?

Implant. There are several types, two are shown above (not real size).

Why do I need it?

The eye's drain is not working well, so the fluid builds up causing pressure. High eye pressure worsens glaucoma.

What is the benefit of surgery?

To lower the pressure inside your eye.

How does it work?

The implant bypasses your eye's drain, draining the fluid under the skin of the eye and into the bloodstream.

Your eye surgeon may combine this operation with a cataract operation. There is a separate leaflet on cataract surgery.

The patch graft

Stops the drain from eroding through the tissues- like an elbow patch on a sweater.

Is made from human donor tissue. If you don't want other people's tissue in your body, tell your surgeon before surgery.

Are there alternatives to surgery?

There are three ways to lower the pressure inside the eye on a long-term basis: eye drops, lasers and operations.

Perhaps you already use eye drops and they are not strong enough, or you get side-effects, or you find them hard to use.

Generally, an operation is reserved for patients for whom eye drops and lasers have not worked or are not suitable.

There are operations that do not involve sewing implants onto the eye, but either these have not worked, or you are not suitable for these operations.

What if I don't want surgery?

We will try to find an alternative. However, this is likely to be the best option for you.

Is the surgery guaranteed to work?

No. The implant needs to stay open to let the fluid out of the eye. This implant can scar over causing the operation to fail. Sometimes, we use an anti-scarring agent to reduce this risk. Your surgeon will tell you if this is planned.

What happens at time of surgery?

You can expect to be in hospital for half a day. Occasionally, we keep you in overnight, but this is unusual.

You will have a general anaesthetic, so you will sleep through your operation. It is unusual to have a local anaesthetic.

The operation takes an hour, or a bit longer if combined with cataract surgery.

What does it feel like?

Afterwards, the eye is padded overnight. The eye will feel a bit sore and scratchy for a few days. Take painkillers if required.

The sight in the eye is commonly blurred for 2-3 weeks. This is normal.

When you look down, others may see a square patch on the white of the eye.

This patch protects the drain. This is normal.

What about my medication?

After the operation, you will be asked to stop your usual glaucoma eye drops. Continue any eye drops in the other eye.

You will be given some antibiotic and anti-inflammatory eye drops for the operated eye. These will continue for a few weeks.

What are the risks and possible complications of surgery?

The eye can be red, sore and blurry for a few weeks after surgery.

Blindness This is rare. If you get an infection, this can be sight-threatening. If the eye is very painful following surgery, you must ring us.

Return to theatre Occasionally, the surgery needs adjusting. If so, you will need to return to the operating theatre.

Failure If this operation fails you may need eye drops or another operation.

Exposure The implant is put under a patch. This patch can wear through to the drain which would mean returning to theatre to have it covered up again.

Double vision The drain can cause double vision. If it does not settle after a few months, it can be corrected with surgery.

What happens after the operation?

You can go home when you feel ready. You may need some assistance to get around. Remove the pad the next morning and start your eye drops.

You will be given an appointment for the next day and eye drops to go home with.

It can take six weeks for the operation to start working so the pressure may remain high for this time. This is not unusual.

If the pressure is high you may need tablets or extra eye drops for a while or you may need some laser to help lower the pressure. This is not unusual.

Post-operative Instructions: Ahmed Drainage Implant Surgery

- No bending or heavy lifting for two weeks.
- Reading, TV and the computer are fine.

- Do not drive until your surgeon says so.
- Keep the eye dry for two weeks. This is to reduce the chance of infection.

Feedback

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future.

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Further information

Who do I contact if I have questions or concerns?

In an emergency:
Tel: 0151 525 5980

Secretary for Mr. Dubois and Mrs Bhargava:
Tel: 0151 529 0147

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