

Patient information

XEN Implant Minimally Invasive Glaucoma Surgery, MIGS

Ophthalmology Department - Aintree Hospital

Who is this leaflet for?

People with glaucoma and/ or raised eye pressures who are having MIGS with a XEN implant.

What is MIGS with a XEN implant?

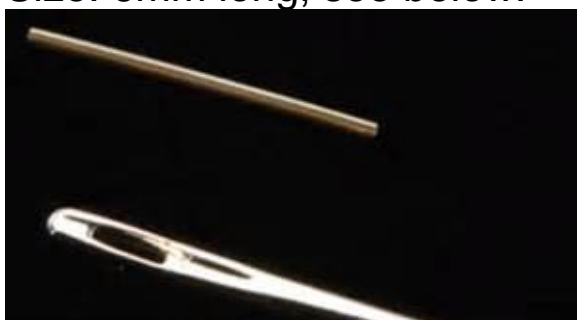
A surgical procedure that improves the drainage of fluid from the eye.

Minimally What?

- Minimally Invasive- not very much.
- Glaucoma- your condition
- So, a small operation for glaucoma
- XEN- the name of the device

What does it look like?

- Size: 6mm long, see below.



Why do I need it?

The eye's drain is not working well causing the eye pressure to go up.

High eye pressure can cause glaucoma, or glaucoma can worsen.

What is the benefit of XEN?

- To lower the eye pressure.
- To replace any eye drops.
- To prevent more invasive surgery that carries higher risks.

Why XEN instead of other surgery?

- XEN takes around 25 minutes.
- Conventional forms of glaucoma surgery typically take 45-75 minutes.
- Conventional surgery is harder, riskier and recovery is longer.

How does it work?

- The drain of the eye is like a sieve. This sieve is partially blocked.
- The XEN drains fluid directly under the skin of the eye. There, the fluid is drained back into the bloodstream.
- Your eye surgeon may combine this operation with a cataract operation. (See separate leaflet).

What are the alternatives to surgery?

- There are three ways to lower the pressure inside the eye long term: eye drops, lasers and operations.
- You could use more eye drops, but this has probably been ruled out.

- Some patients find it hard to get the drops into the eye or are forgetful.
- Laser surgery may have been tried already, or may not be suitable.

What will happen if I don't want surgery?

You may be able to have an alternative- see above.

Is the surgery guaranteed to work?

No, some people need more surgery.

What happens on the day of surgery?

- You will be in hospital for half a day.
- We put eye drops in before surgery.
- Most of the time is spent waiting.
- When it is your turn, you will have an injection around the eye to freeze it.
- If you are nervous, you may be given a tablet to help you relax or, you may be having sedation during surgery.
- Or, you will have a general anaesthetic, so that you sleep through the surgery. This is unusual.

What does it feel like?

- Following the surgery, you have a plastic shield until the next morning.
- The eye usually feels a bit gritty for the first few days. Feel free to take some painkillers as necessary.
- The sight in the eye is often blurred for up to two to three weeks. This is normal.

What should I do about my medication?

You should take all regular tablets and eye drops on the day of surgery.

After surgery you will stop your eye drops in the operated eye only.

You will use antibiotic and anti-inflammatory eye drops in the operated eye for a few weeks.

What are the risks and possible complications of surgery?

Blindness

This is rare. Infection is the main cause. If the eye is very painful following surgery, ring up.

Return to theatre.

Rarely, the XEN needs adjusting. This would mean returning to the operating theatre.

Failure

leading to further treatment.

Bleeding

This is common. It may blur your vision for a few days. Like a bruise, it goes over one to two weeks.

Temporary high eye pressure

We check for this often- it tends to settle.

What happens after the operation?

Once you feel OK, you can go home. The operated eye will have a clear plastic shield on, so you may need some assistance to get around. You will get regular check-ups.

What should I expect after surgery?

There might be some discomfort. Feel free to take some painkillers. If you are unsure what you can take, ask one of the nurses or your GP.

Post-operative Instructions: XEN.

- Reading, TV/ computer are fine.
- Wait until we say you can drive.
- 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:

Tel: 0151 529 0147

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