



Paediatric information: 8-12 years

Glaucoma surgery

Glaucoma means that the pressure in your eye is too high. The high pressure damages the optic nerve that takes vision information from your eye to your brain. Glaucoma operations bring the pressure in the eye down and stop damage to the optic nerve.

How does it work?

You will be given a general anaesthetic. This means you will be asleep during your operation to make sure you lie still and don't feel anything. The picture below shows the surgeon examining the eyes before surgery.



In a glaucoma operation, the surgeon opens up the blocked drainage channel or makes a new drainage channel, so that some fluid can escape from the inside of your eye to lower the

pressure. Or, sometimes the surgeon uses a laser beam so that your eyes make less fluid which will bring the pressure down.

Why do I have to have an operation?

Eye drops can help get your eye pressure down, but you have to keep using them every day and sometimes the pressure is not low enough to be safe for your eye. When this happens, it is usually better for children with glaucoma to have an operation –if it works really well, you don't need to use any more drops!

What will happen afterwards?

After your operation, you will have a patch on your eye which the doctors will take off the next day. The nurses on the ward will give you eye drops to take home and put in a few times a day to help your eye get better. The doctor will need to see you in the clinic regularly. If you wear glasses, you still need to keep wearing them.

Are there any side-effects?

Young people's eyes are delicate and sometimes there can be problems, such as an infection, or the pressure can get too low or too high again. You



might need extra treatment. The eye doctors will keep a check on you regularly and treat any problems if they happen.

Will the operation work?

Glaucoma operations usually work and bring the eye pressure down. Sometimes children may need more than one glaucoma operation.

Author: Paediatric information group
Revision number: 3
Approved: April 2016
Review date: April 2018

Your right to treatment within 18 weeks

Under the NHS constitution, all patients have the right to begin consultant-led treatment within 18 weeks of being referred by their GP. Moorfields is committed to fulfilling this right, but if you feel that we have failed to do so, please contact our patient advice and liaison service (PALS) who will be able to advise you further (see above). For more information about your rights under the NHS constitution, visit www.nhs.uk/choiceinthenhs

Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
City Road, London EC1V 2PD
Phone: 020 7253 3411
www.moorfields.nhs.uk

Moorfields Direct telephone helpline

Phone: 020 7566 2345
Monday-Friday, 8.30am-9pm
Saturday, 9am-5pm
Information and advice on eye conditions and treatments from experienced ophthalmic-trained nurses.

Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

Phone: 020 7566 2324/ 020 7566 2325
Email: moorfields.pals@nhs.net
Moorfields' PALS team provides confidential advice and support to help you with any concerns you may have about the care we provide, guiding you through the different services available at Moorfields. The PALS team can also advise you on how to make a complaint.

