

you leave the ward. It is rare that an overnight stay is needed. You will need to take your child home by car or taxi at the end of the day. Public transport is not suitable. After squint surgery your child can not swim for 6 weeks. They are likely to need a couple of days off school or nursery. Your child will need to continue to wear their glasses until they are seen at their post operative appointment

### **What are the risks of the operation?**

Squint surgery is generally a very safe procedure but complications can occur with any type of eye surgery. There is chance that further surgery may be required to improve the position of the eyes. Very rarely the eye can become injured and the vision damaged. You can discuss any concerns with your Ophthalmologist or Anaesthetist. Minor side effects include foreign body (itchy) sensation, watering of the eyes and sensitivity or bright lights in the early period.

Surgery is not to improve your child's vision, only to improve the alignment of the eyes. Your child will need to continue to wear their glasses after the operation if they wore them before.

Author: Mrs J Holden (Orthoptist) & Mr W Muen (Consultant Ophthalmologist)

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Kingston Hospital   
NHS Foundation Trust

## **Royal Eye Unit**

# **Childrens Squint Surgery**

**Patient Information Sheet**

**Tel 020 8546 7711 EXT 2637** answerphone

### **What is the Operation for?**

For some children squint surgery is necessary- either to enable both eyes to work together or to improve the appearance by making the squint less obvious.

### **Treatment before the operation:**

Once your child has been put on the waiting list, the Orthoptist will continue to see them regularly to supervise any treatment and monitor their condition. This may also be necessary after surgery. Approximately two weeks before the day of surgery, your child will be given an appointment to attend the Pre Assessment clinics at the Royal Eye Unit. The Orthoptist will assess your child's vision and measure the degree of the squint before consultation with the doctor to plan surgery. Please make sure you bring your child's glasses to the appointment.

### **What happens during the operation?**

There are 6 different muscles attached to the eyeball. Some of these, often 2, are weakened or strengthened to make the eye straighter. The Orthoptist and Doctor will be able to discuss your child's operation in more detail.

### **Coming to the hospital:**

Squint surgery is carried out as a day case. It is essential that your child does not eat any food on the morning of their operation. A

small amount of water is ok but any food in their stomach will prevent the operation going ahead. You will need to arrive on the ward at 7.45 am and you should be able to go home mid afternoon. Someone will need to stay with your child all day as a hospital can seem a strange and frightening place. A familiar face helps relieve anxiety and fear.

### **Preparing for admission:**

If your child is well prepared for the operation they will be less anxious and will get over it more quickly. You can help prepare by reading books about the hospital, telling them in simple terms that their eyes will be made straighter during the operation and by visiting the day surgery prior to admission. A visit can be arranged by request to Day Surgery. Please do bring a favourite toy or comforter with you.

### **The Operation:**

You will go with your child to the anaesthetic room and stay until they are asleep. Your child will be away from the ward for up to 2 hours and they will be fairly sleepy on return to the ward.

### **After the Operation:**

Before going home your child will be seen by one of the surgeons. You will be given an appointment for clinic in about 2 weeks to see the Orthoptist and the Surgeon. You will need to use eye drops

or ointment for several weeks. The nurse will give these to you  
before