

Strabismus (Squint) Surgery

Information for patients,
relatives and carers

Strabismus (Squint) Surgery

The intended benefits and possible complications relating to strabismus surgery are listed in this leaflet. No list is complete, as with any surgery there are unusual risks that are too numerous to list. The final result cannot be guaranteed. If you have any questions after reading this leaflet please discuss these with your doctor.

What are the intended benefits of strabismus surgery?

- To reduce/eliminate double vision
- To bring areas of single vision into the centre
- To straighten the eyes
- To reduce asthenopic symptoms (for example headache, eye pain)
- To reduce or eliminate compensatory head posture
- To promote binocularity
- To reduce visual confusion (loss of suppression)
- To reduce requirement for prism, patch or occlusion
- To improve visual field of vision

Are there any possible complications during the operation?

(These may lead to loss of sight, loss of the eye or a requirement for further surgery)

- Incorrect eye or muscle operated on
- Damage to the eye or vision
- Damage to the eye with suture needle or other sharp object
- Bleeding inside or outside the eye
- Loss of a muscle or muscle torn in two

What are the possible complications after my operation?

(These may lead to loss of sight, loss of the eye or a requirement for further surgery)

- Swelling of the eye or eyelids
- Redness of the 'white' of the eye that persists beyond two months
- Prominent scarring of the 'white' of the eye
- Under or over correction of the eye position leading in some cases to further squint surgery (risk 10% in average case)
- Deterioration of double vision, or new double vision, which is disabling
- Infection outside or inside the eye
- Allergy to any medication used

In an average case, the likelihood of a serious complication (permanent reduced vision or troublesome double vision) is one in 2,400.