

# Mr Danny Morrison

## Care of the eyes after dermoid cyst excision surgery in children

All surgery is under general anaesthetic. The operation takes about one hour. It is usual to go home the same day, about 4 hours after waking up.

When you return from the operating theatre there will be a firm pad over the operated eye. The pad reduces swelling and keeps the eye closed. It is important that the pad is not removed by anyone apart from the operating surgeon, usually 3-5 days after surgery.

The eyelid will feel a little sore and will be red with some moderate lid swelling. There will be sutures (stitches) just above the eyelashes on the upper lid, or occasionally the eyebrow. These will dissolve or fall out during the two months after surgery. There may be some slight watering. It is fine to take Calpol (Paracetamol) for the pain or discomfort.

**Antibiotic tablets:** These are sometimes given to take for a week after surgery. This is to reduce the very small risk of infection.

**Eye drops:** You may be given artificial tears or antibiotic drops/ointment to put in the eye for 3-4 times a day for a week.

**Ice packs:** These help to reduce lid swelling, pain, and speeds up healing. The ice pack can be made by wrapping ice or a packet of frozen food such as peas in a plastic bag, flannel or towel. Apply the ice pack to the closed eyelid for 5-10 minutes every hour during the daytime for the first two days after surgery, immediately after the eye pad has been removed.

The eyelids can be cleaned of excess mucous or ointment with cool (boiled) water on a clean piece of cotton wool.

### ***When can you swim?***

No swimming until 2 weeks after surgery. Please check first with Mr Morrison. If you must swim then watertight goggles can be worn.

### ***Can I have a bath or shower? What about hair washing?***

Yes, but avoid saturating the eyes and face. A splash of water is fine. Try and avoid getting shampoo in the eyes, as you would normally do.

### ***When can I go back to school?***

You can expect your child to be off school for 5 days after surgery, although you may be able to return a day or two earlier than this.

### ***When do I have to come back to the eye clinic?***

The wound is usually checked 3-5 days after surgery, then after at 2-3 months.

### ***What problems can occur after dermoid cyst surgery?***

The cyst can come back if it not completely removed. This is extremely unusual. If the cyst ruptures during the surgery (less than 1% of operations) there is a small chance of an irritable lump or scar forming. The scar (wound) may be slightly visible if it is over or near the eyebrow. Infection of the eyelid with the need to have oral/intravenous antibiotics with re-admission to hospital is very unusual.

**Contact my secretary or personal assistant if there is severe pain and the eyelid cannot be opened because of excessive lid swelling. This can be a sign of infection or reaction to the antibiotic/steroid drops given.**