

Information for Patients

Instructions Following Lid Surgery

Please follow the instructions provided in the boxes that are ticked.

☐ **Daily cleaning of the wound**

Once a day boil some water and allow to cool. Wash your hands before and after cleaning your wound. Using cotton wool and the cooled boiled water, gently clean the wound sweeping from the nose outwards and using a fresh pad of cotton wool each time. Cleaning the wound once a day is normally enough. You will be advised by the doctor or nurse practitioner if you should perform this any more frequently.

☐ **Apply antibiotic ointment to the wound**

You will need to apply antibiotic ointment to the wound and/or your eye. The ointment should be applied times a day. Occasionally patients may be sensitive to the ointment; this can cause itching, redness and swelling. If you know that you are sensitive to any antibiotic or cream, please tell the nurse caring for you. If you develop any of these symptoms stop the ointment and contact us on the numbers below so that a different ointment may be prescribed. If the ointment happens to go into your eyes (when it is not prescribed too) it will blur your vision for 5-10 minutes, but usually causes no harm.

☐ **Oral antibiotics**

You may have been supplied with antibiotic tablets, please be sure to complete the course. If the tablets make you unwell please contact us immediately on the numbers overleaf.

☐ **Massage**

When a wound heals, over time it can shrink slightly. In an attempt to reduce this you may be encouraged to massage the wound. The nurse will show you how to do this and will advise on how much pressure to apply for the massage to be effective. Remember to use a lubricant whilst massaging such as Lacrilube. This may be obtained on prescription from the hospital or your GP or can be bought at the chemist.

It may be necessary to massage the wound for 3 or 4 minutes up to 5 times a day. You will be advised of this.

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☐ **Infection**

Early signs of infection include redness, swelling, increased pain, feeling unwell, or an obvious change in the appearance of the wound. If you are at all concerned, please contact a member of staff on the numbers below.

☐ **Stitches**

You may have had stitches that are very small and difficult to see. These will normally be dissolvable. If they require removing you will be advised of this and when they should be removed. You will need to arrange removal with the practice nurse at your GP surgery.

The stitches may cause slight irritation.

If your surgery has involved a skin graft you will have stitches on the part of your body that the graft has been taken from. These will need to be removed in/on days.

Please keep this area clean and dry.

If you are worried or wish to ask any questions about this information, please contact the Oculoplastic specialist nurse on (0161) 276 5608.

To speak to Ward 55 staff please contact the main hospital switchboard on:
(0161) 276 1234, available 24 hours a day.