

## The Eye Unit

# Vitrectomy: Treatment, surgery and aftercare

The doctor has recommended that you should have Vitrectomy surgery. This booklet explains to you the treatment available and what you can and cannot do after the operation.

University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire is a teaching hospital and as such has a responsibility to train surgeons of the future. We cannot guarantee that your surgery will be performed by a particular surgeon. Surgery is carried out by consultants and other suitably skilled surgeons. Surgery is also carried out by surgeons in training, under the supervision of an experienced consultant.

## What is a Vitrectomy?

This is when the surgeon removes the vitreous humour, a clear transparent jelly from inside the eye. Some of the common eye conditions that require Vitrectomy include:

- Complications from diabetic retinopathy such retinal detachment or bleeding.
- Macular hole.
- Retinal detachment.
- Epiretinal membrane peel.
- Bleeding inside the eye (vitreous haemorrhage).
- Injury or infection.
- Certain problems related to previous eye surgery.



## Patient Information

### **Admission to hospital**

You will be admitted on the day of surgery and should be able to go home the same day; you will need to arrange for someone to take you home. Surgery is usually performed under a local anaesthetic

### **Discharge**

**Your first follow-up appointment will be the next day. All subsequent appointments will be arranged from then on.**

Please bring all your eye drops to your appointments

Depending on the type of surgery you have had you **may** be required to posture. If this is the case further information will be given to you.

### **Some Frequently Asked Questions**

**Are there any complications following the operation?**

- Some patients may experience raised pressure in the eye/or haemorrhage.
- 1 in 1000 patients may develop a serious infection resulting in the loss of vision.
- There is a risk of the retina becoming detached or re-detached.
- Rarely infections can be un-responsive to treatment which can result in the loss of sight in the eye.
- Bruising of the eye or eyelids.
- High pressure inside the eye.
- Inflammation inside the eye.
- Cataract.
- Double vision.
- Allergy to the eye drops.
- Infrequently surgery can cause inflammation in the other eye called Sympathetic Ophthalmitis; the risk of this is 1:1250. Early detection will avoid the possible permanent loss of vision.

## Patient Information

### **Aftercare**

- You will be seen the next day for eye pressure check up
- You will have to use eye drops for at least four weeks
- Please expect to be off work for at least four weeks depending on your occupation
- Arrange for someone to be with you until you feel able to cope on your own
- Take things easy for a few weeks and then gradually build back up to a normal activity level
- **Do not drive** until you are able to read the new style car number plate at 20 metres with both eyes open and you are confident enough to drive
- Please discuss any travel plans with your consultant in advance

**Specific details relating to your particular operation will be given to you in a 'Going home after surgery booklet'.**

### **How much vision can I expect after a successful operation?**

Your prognosis depends on your underlying condition.

### **What happens if I lose my vision?**

Help is available. We have a visual impairment / rehabilitation officer who will work with you and establish what can be done to overcome practical and environmental problems. They will provide you with support, guidance and someone to talk to. We will refer you to the rehabilitation officer if you require help.

### **Please seek urgent advice if you have any of the following symptoms**

- A lot of pain
- Loss of vision
- Increasing redness of the eye

## Patient Information

### **UHCW Eye Casualty - Tel 024 7696 6627**

Open from:

Monday to Thursday	08.30am – 4.30pm
Friday	08.30am – 4.00pm
Saturday	08.30am – 12.00pm

Outside the opening times for Eye Casualty, please attend the main Accident and Emergency Department at University Hospital Coventry; you will be assessed and passed on to an Ophthalmologist if required.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact us on 024 7696 6494 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy

#### **Document History**

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