

Ophthalmology

Vitrectomy - treatment, surgery, and aftercare

The doctor has recommended that you should have vitrectomy surgery.

This leaflet 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).



Patient Information

- Injury or infection.
- Certain problems related to previous eye surgery.

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 (an injection to numb the skin)

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.

Patient Information

- 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.

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 slowly 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 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.

Patient Information

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

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

Contact numbers

UHCW Eye Casualty (Clinic 9) - Tel 024 7696 6627

Open from:

Monday to Thursday	08.30am – 4.30pm
Friday	08.30am – 4.00pm
Saturday	08.30am – 13.00pm

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.

To give feedback on this leaflet please email feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk

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Emergency eye appointments: New booking system

If you have an urgent eye problem, you can now book an on-the-day telephone consultation via the Eye Emergency Referral Service (EERS).



Scan the QR code or visit www.uhcw.nhs.uk and search Eye Emergency Referral Service. You can book a telephone consultation via this link.

You will be spoken to by an expert clinician who will give you specialist advice on the next steps to take.

Please provide a phone number which you can be contacted on for the consultation. Please also be aware that you will be phoned as close to the allotted time as possible, although at busy times unfortunately there may be a delay.

In the event that you feel you cannot wait to speak to someone or do not have online access then you may call 024 7696 4800.

This phone line is open 9am - 1pm; 1.30pm - 5pm (Monday - Friday, excluding bank holidays) and 9am - 12pm (Saturday).

Please only attend the Eye Outpatient department if you have had a telephone consultation in advance and have been advised to attend.

In the event of an eye emergency out of hours, please attend the Minor Injuries Unit/Emergency Department.