

## **Strabismus Postoperative Instructions**

**What to expect:** Most patients tolerate strabismus surgery well. Much of the discomfort occurs within the first 24 hours. Your child may prefer to keep their eyes closed for 12 to 24 hours after surgery. **This is normal and not a cause for concern.**

- Your child will receive a prescription for an antibiotic/anti-inflammatory ointment. **Place a thin strip of ointment in the operative eye(s) four times daily for 10 days.** This will help prevent infection and will also help with discomfort.
- You may give your child Tylenol and Motrin to relieve any discomfort during the days following surgery. Cool compresses are also recommended as needed.
- Some patients experience postoperative nausea and vomiting. Usually we administer medication during surgery to help with this.

### **Activity**

- Refrain from swimming for 2 weeks. Your child can shower or bathe but if possible, try to keep water out of the eyes.
- Do not perform any activity during which there is risk of getting hit in the eye(s) (i.e. contact sports) for 2 weeks.
- Your child may participate in any other activities as soon as they feel up to it. This includes returning to school, reading, or using a computer.

### **Normal Postoperative Symptoms**

- Crusting of the eyelashes upon awakening in the morning is normal for the first few days. You may wipe this away with a clean, warm washcloth.
- There may be blood-tinged drainage for the first 12 to 24 hours. You may wipe this away with a clean tissue or washcloth.
- The eye(s) may be red for 2-3 weeks. This gradually improves.
- Your child may experience some double vision for a brief period after surgery. This is normal and will improve as you heal, usually within a few days to a couple of weeks.

### **Rare Postoperative Symptoms**

- Increasing redness, swelling, pain or headache.
- Persistent fever over 100 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Extreme irritability or lethargy (difficult to rouse).
- Persistent discharge from the eye(s) (crusting of the lashes is normal).
- Significant change in vision (mild blurry vision is normal initially and with use of ointment).

**If your child experiences any rare symptoms, call our office at 256-715-3080 or proceed to your nearest emergency room.**

**Your child should have a follow-up appointment already scheduled with Dr. Calderwood. If not, please call our office to schedule.**