

Following your Dacryocystorhinostomy (DCR)

What is a DCR?

A DCR is an operation to make a new drainage channel for your tears, to try and stop your eye from watering.

Will my eye still water after the operation?

It is not unusual for the eye to water in the early post operative period. A tube is usually placed to prevent closure of the newly formed channel. The watering should settle after this tube has been removed in the Outpatients department from three to twelve weeks after your operation.

However post-operative scar tissue formation can sometimes cause a recurrence of the watering. This occurs in 8-25% of cases, the variation in success depending on the cause and site of the original blockage.

When will my stitches be removed?

Your stitches will be removed in the outpatients department or your GP surgery five to seven days after your operation.

Will I have to use eye drops after the operation?

Yes. You will need to put in antibiotic drops for one week.

How much can I do when I get home?

You can lead a normal lifestyle, but do not:

- take part in active sport
- sneeze. If you feel the urge to sneeze, pinch your nostrils together and this will stop you from sneezing
- blow your nose
- interfere with your nostril as this may move the tube
- let your glasses (if you wear them) press against your stitches.

You can usually return to work after about one week.

Are there likely to be any problems?

It is unlikely, but if:

- you notice any redness, swelling or discharge from around the stitches, or
- your eye discharges and becomes sticky

contact your GP.

There may be a slight trickle of blood from your nose a couple of days after your operation. This is not unusual and is nothing to worry about. However, if there is heavy bleeding, wrap ice or frozen peas in a cloth and put it on to the bridge of your nose. Contact your GP or go to the nearest Accident and Emergency Department straight away.

Any questions?

If you have any other questions, please contact the Ophthalmology department at the Royal Cornwall Hospital on: 01872 252324.

If you would like this leaflet in large print, braille, audio version or in another language, please contact the General Office on 01872 252690