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Bleb revision or bleb needling for the treatment of glaucoma

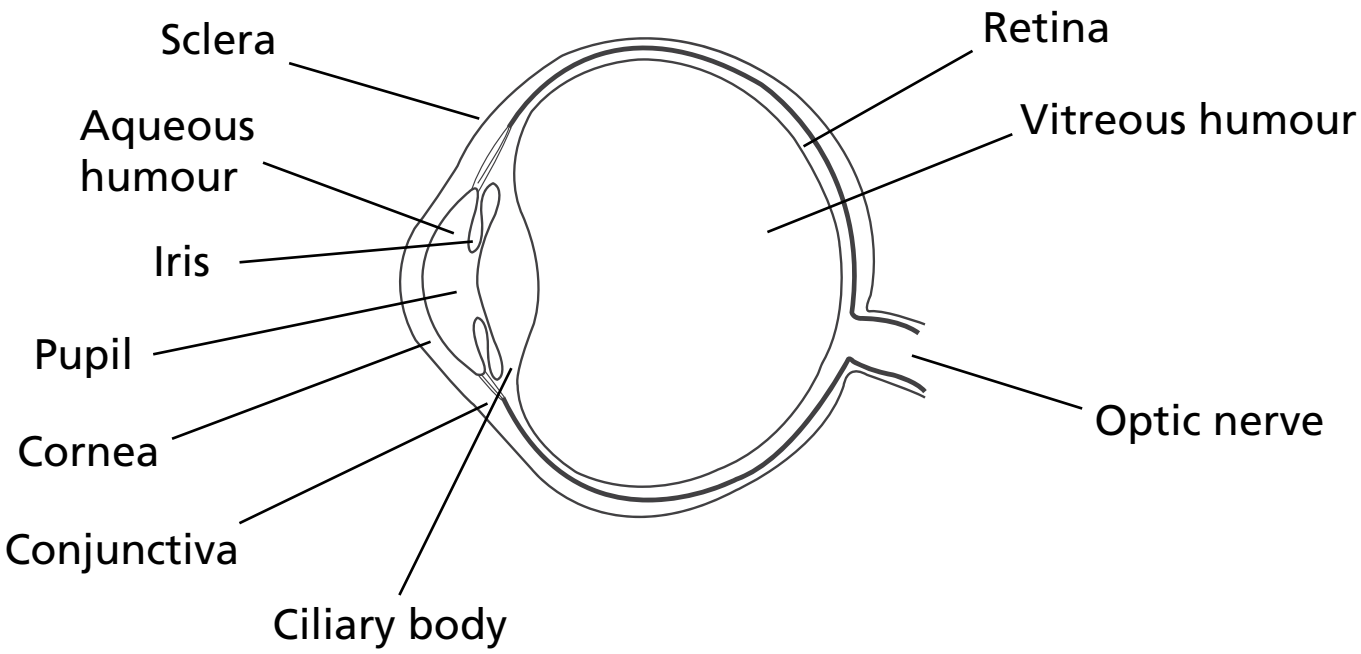
Information for patients



Outstanding Care for One+All

What is a bleb?

During your glaucoma surgery (trabeculectomy, Xen or other minimally invasive glaucoma surgery) a small opening is made inside the eye to let the fluid escape and lower the pressure. The fluid that flows out of your eye forms a small cyst, called a bleb, which is under the conjunctiva, the thin transparent layer that covers the white of your eye. This is usually located under the upper eyelid.



Why do I need a bleb revision or needling?

Sometimes blebs fail. The most common reason is when the body's natural healing process creates scar tissue around the incision, causing pressure to rebuild. Bleb revision or needling will reduce the pressure in your eye and help control your glaucoma. For further information about glaucoma please see leaflet RCHT1195 Glaucoma.

Are there any alternatives?

Alternative treatments, if available (including the consequences of no treatment) will be discussed in the clinic. If you need further information on this, please discuss with your surgeon.

How do I prepare for it?

Please follow the instructions in your admission letter.

What does the treatment involve?

Your eye will be numbed with local anaesthetic drops or an injection. You can discuss with your surgeon if you require a general anaesthetic.

A fine needle or blade will be used to break down the scar tissue and improve the drainage. An anti-scarring drug may then be injected before or after the procedure to help prevent further scarring. The eye may be padded after the procedure.

Are there any possible risks or complications?

The most sight threatening problems that can occur are bleeding inside the eye, or a serious infection. These complications are rare and occur in less than 1 in 1000 procedures. You will be given antibiotic drops to help to prevent infection. Rarely, the pressure in your eye may go too low following the procedure and require further intervention.

The anti-scarring agent may cause the wound to leak or may change the surface of the cornea (the clear window at the front of your eye). This recovers in almost all cases.

What happens afterwards?

Following your procedure, you will need to use steroid and antibiotic drops for a few weeks. Please follow the instructions in your eye drop leaflets.

Your eye doctor or nurse will tell you which, if any, glaucoma medications you need to continue using.

If you experience mild pain take paracetamol or your usual painkillers, following the instructions on the packet carefully.

Will I need any follow up?

You will be seen 1 to 2 weeks after your procedure, or sometimes sooner.

Will the procedure need to be repeated?

Sometimes the procedure needs repeating if not successful. This will be discussed at your follow up appointments.

When can I return to work?

This will vary depending on the type of work you do. Most people can return to work after one week. For the first week, try to avoid sudden bending and aerobic type exercise such as gardening, lifting etc.

If you experience any of the following:

- severe pain
- sudden loss of vision
- discharge

please contact the Eye department on:

Telephone: 01872 252324

Or phone the hospital switchboard on the number below and ask for the Eye Emergency department.

Telephone: 01872 250000

For an online version of this leaflet please scan this QR code



To get this information in a different format call 01872 252690

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