

INFORMED CONSENT FOR STRABISMUS SURGERY
PLEASE BRING TO HOSPITAL THE DAY OF SURGERY

Surgery to straighten eyes is elective. Infants born with crossed eyes are best operated on between six months and eighteen months of age. Early surgery during this “window of opportunity” is recommended to attempt to achieve normal use of the two eyes together.

Children acquiring crossed eyes at ages 18 months or older first need an evaluation to see if glasses will “cure” the crossing. Once it is established that glasses will not fully correct the crossing, surgery is recommended.

Children of any age or adults with eye misalignment may benefit from eye muscle surgery to have both eyes working together as a “team,” maximizing the chance of binocular fusion (3-D vision) and normalizing the field of vision. Eye muscle surgery may allow children or adults to see more comfortably with a relaxed head position.

ALTERNATIVES

- **No surgery**
- Prism glasses for small deviations
- Glasses or medications to control accommodative esotropia where surgery is not indicated
- Eye exercises (orthoptics) may help some cases of intermittent exotropia (an eye that drifts outward)

EXPLANATION OF SURGERY

- Eye muscles are either tightened or loosened
- Eyes are never removed from sockets; the positions of the eye muscles are changed
- Absorbable sutures are used
- General anesthesia is used
- Temporary (usually lasting less than a week) double vision after surgery is common
- Discomfort for 24 to 48 hours after surgery is common
- There is usually no permanent scar
- Eyes stay red for about four weeks
- Medication (usually ointment) once or twice daily for 1-2 weeks after surgery
- The eyes will not be patched after surgery
- **EYE MUSCLE SURGERY WILL NOT CHANGE YOUR CHILD’S VISUAL ACUITY**
 - Eye muscle surgery is performed to improve your child’s field of vision and to optimize the ability of both eyes to work together as a team enabling maximal binocular fusion (depth perception)
 - If your child wears glasses, although there may be a change in the prescription, they will likely continue to wear glasses after the surgery.

Risks that may be associated with Strabismus Surgery:

The most likely risk from eye muscle surgery is that additional surgery may be needed in the ensuing months to fine-tune the results. The final alignment of the eyes depends on how an individual heals. Dr. Glaser or Luck will go over the specific chances of needing additional surgery. While we are unable to list every possible complication, the following are some potential risks:

Major risks:

To date, our patients have not had any severe complications from surgery. There are some potential risks associated with anesthesia. Please feel free to call the hospital and ask to speak to one of the anesthesiologists at any time.

There can be loss of vision of the eye associated with anesthesia or other causes, but these complications are not usual and have never occurred with any of our patients. This also can occur from hemorrhage, retinal detachment, infection, or change in blood supply to the eye.

Minor risks: inflammation of the surface membrane (conjunctivitis, pink eye), reaction to the sutures, pain, temporary double vision, and scar tissue formation including implantation cysts. Sometimes the eyelid position may be altered. Occasionally, temporary blurry vision may occur requiring new eyeglasses.

Occasionally a different, unsuspected condition may arise at the time of surgery requiring immediate attention, and I authorize my surgeon to do what he/she deems necessary.

By signing below, I indicate that I have read and understand the consent form including potential risks of the surgery, and my questions have been answered. I authorize my surgeon to proceed with surgery.

PLEASE DO NOT SIGN BELOW UNTIL THE DAY OF SURGERY AT THE HOSPITAL

I certify that I have read and fully understand the risks and benefits of the surgery and wish to proceed.

Parent or Legal Guardian (Patient if over 18)
SIGN AND PRINT NAME

Date

Witness

Date

* A more detailed description of eye muscle surgery is available by clicking on “Eye Muscle Surgery” on our website: kidseyecare.com