

Dacryocystorhinostomy (DCR) with or without tubes

Corneo-Plastic Unit

You have been booked for surgery in the Corneo Plastic Unit for treatment in the field of oculoplastic surgery.

At the Queen Victoria Hospital, a team of trained doctors and nurses will undertake your treatment and care. The consultant ophthalmic and oculoplastic surgeon works closely with his Fellow in oculoplastic surgery. Occasionally, visiting specialist registrars from neighbouring hospitals join the team. Your surgery will be carried out either by a consultant, his Fellow or by a member of the team who is suitably experienced and qualified under appropriate supervision of a senior surgeon.

What is DCR surgery?

DCR surgery creates a new passage for tears to flow from the tear sac to the nose, for the treatment of watery eyes where obstruction of the nasolacrimal duct is the cause. It may be performed through a skin incision (external DCR) or through the nose (endoscopic DCR).

What are the risks?

All surgery carries risks and benefits. It is for you to weigh-up the risks and benefits before deciding to proceed. The risks of this surgery include, but are not limited to:

- nose bleeding
- infection
- failure and recurrence of symptoms in the future
- partial or no improvement of symptoms
- the need for a skin incision and visible scar initially (possibly long-term) if the external approach is used

- scarring in the nasal cavity
- problems breathing through the nose following surgery
- problems related to the tubes (movement or loss of tubes)

Rarely

- temporary cerebrospinal fluid leak (leakage of fluid of the brain)

In addition to the risks that relate specifically to your procedure, there are also general risks associated with any surgical procedure, such as blood loss, blood clots, infection, cardiac arrest and airway problems. If your operation is to be carried out under general anaesthetic the anaesthetist will discuss this with you. Local anaesthetic may cause bruising or possible allergic responses.

Although we have discussed with you the purpose and likely outcome of the proposed procedure it is not possible for us to guarantee a successful outcome in every case. Those treating you will do their best to ensure success but unfortunately complications can and do occur. You should only agree to surgery if you fully understand the risks.

What are the benefits?

- improve symptoms of watering eye and sticky discharge, eyelid crusting and blurred vision
- reduce the need to wipe eyes

Are there any alternatives to surgery?

If you choose not to have this surgery, the symptoms are unlikely to improve spontaneously and may worsen. This will not, however, have any permanent detrimental effect on your vision or general health although there is a small risk of infections developing in the tear sac that will require medical treatment.

Further information

For further information visit the British Oculoplastic Surgery Society website: www.bopss.org

For further information about the risks of anaesthetics please see the booklet 'You and your anaesthetic' or visit the Royal College of Anaesthetists' website: www.rcoa.ac.uk

Further queries

Should you have any further questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us:

Corneo-Plastic Unit (eye clinic)

Tel: 01342 414470 / Fax: 01342 414106

8.30am to 4.30pm

For enquiries out of hours, weekends and bank holidays, please contact Ross Tilley Ward. Tel: 01342 414466 / 4451

Please ask if you would like this leaflet in larger print or an alternative format.