

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

What is DCR surgery?

DCR surgery is used to treat watery eyes caused by a blockage in the tear duct. It creates a new passage for tears to flow from the tear sac to the nose. 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. Your surgeon will discuss these with you.

Common risks of this surgery include, but are not limited to:

- Some nose bleeding, mainly on the day of surgery

Rare problems of surgery:

- Infection
- Failure and recurrence of symptoms in the future

- Partial or no improvement in symptoms
- Visible scar initially (possibly long-term) if the external approach is used
- Problems breathing through the nose or scarring in the nasal cavity if the endoscopic approach is used
- Problems related to the tubes (movement or loss of tubes)
- Possibility of a weaker blink if a skin approach is used

Exceptionally rare:

- Temporary cerebrospinal fluid leak (leakage of the fluid of the brain)
- Injury to the eye or eye structure affecting sight.

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 the anaesthetic risks 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 that infections develop in the tear sac which will require medical treatment.

Further information

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

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
9.00am to 5.00pm

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

Dacryocystorhinostomy (DCR) with or without tubes

Corneo-Plastic Unit

Please ask if you
would like this leaflet
in larger print or a
different format.

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