

## Strabismus Surgery – Child

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### What is strabismus surgery?

Your child has an eye condition called strabismus. To correct this condition, surgery is done on your child's eye muscles to straighten the eyes. Your child will be given a general anesthetic so that he or she will be asleep during surgery.

After surgery, your child will go to the Post Anesthetic Care Unit (PACU) and stay there until awake. When awake your child will return to Same Day Surgery (SDS). Your child may need an eye adjustment the next day in the surgeon's office.

### Eye drops and pain medication

You will be given a prescription from your surgeon for eye drops. The drops contain a steroid to reduce swelling and an antibiotic to prevent infection. You will need to give your child these eye drops after surgery.

Give your child acetaminophen (Tylenol®) for pain or discomfort.

### Activity

- No swimming for 4 weeks.
- Avoid activities where your child might get dust particles in his or her eyes.
- Your child may return to school after 2 to 3 days. Talk to the surgeon about when your child can resume other activities.
- Your child can eat a normal diet and should drink lots of fluids.

## What to expect after surgery

### Your child's eyes

- Your child's eyes may feel gritty for a few days because of the stitches. Encourage your child not to rub or poke his or her eyes.
- Stitches will dissolve within a few weeks.
- The whites of your child's eyes will look red (blood shot) and swollen.
- Your child may have blood-tinged tears at first, but any bleeding will be minimal.
- Your child's eyes may be sensitive to light for a few days. Bring sunglasses for your child to wear home.
- Patching of the eyes is not usually done.
- Your child may bathe as usual, but cover his or her eyes for hair washing.
- Encourage your child to open his or her eyes, but do not force your child to do so.
- Encourage your child to use his or her eyes fully, to read, write, watch TV etc. Your child should continue to wear his or her glasses after surgery.

## When do I need to get medical help?

### Go to the Emergency Department or Urgent Care if your child has:

- increasing pain, swelling, redness, or discharge from the eyes.
- a fever of 38°C (100°F) or higher