

BEFORE EYELID/PLASTIC SURGERY

1. Your regular medications:

1. Blood-thinning (anticoagulant) medication:

Our general advice for your blood-thinning medication is as follows:

DO NOT STOP BEFORE SURGERY: Aspirin, Plavix/Coplavix, Brilinta

STOP BEFORE SURGERY (ONLY IF advised by your GP/Specialist): Warfarin, Pradaxa, Eliquis, Xarelto

If you are on Warfarin, Pradaxa, Eliquis or Xarelto, Dr Then will write directly to your GP/Specialist for confirmation as to whether it is safe for you to stop (or reduce) these medications before your surgery, and we will then advise you of their instructions. You may also wish to book an appointment to discuss your blood-thinners and your surgery with your GP or cardiologist.

In some cases, we may also ask your GP/Specialist to provide medical clearance for your surgery. If you have had recent heart surgery or a stroke, then it may not be safe for you to have surgery within 6-12 months of the event.

We will not be able to book your surgery until we have this confirmation back from your doctor.

Please DO NOT stop your blood thinning medication on your own, without first seeking the advice of your GP/specialist or our rooms.

If you have experienced a serious medical episode since your consultation with Dr Then, please advise our office.

The anaesthetist for your surgery will also discuss your blood thinning medication with you before your surgery.

2. Diabetic medication

Your anaesthetist will advise what to do with your diabetic medication prior to, and on the day of surgery.

3. All other medication:

All other medications should generally be taken up until the night of surgery unless advised otherwise by your GP/Specialist, or your anaesthetist.

2. Contact lenses:

If you wear contact lenses, you need to remove them the morning of surgery.

3. Fasting before surgery:

You will need to fast a minimum of 6 hours prior to surgery.

- ✓ For patients having their surgery in the morning, this means no food or drink from midnight the night before
- ✓ For patients having their surgery in the afternoon, you may have a light breakfast at 7am on the morning of surgery, and no food or drink after this
- ✓ Diabetic patients will be given specific instructions regarding this

ON THE DAY OF SURGERY

1. Time of arrival

Please refer to your letter of confirmation for arrival time on day of surgery. Admission time may be subject change and if this is necessary, you will be contacted by the theatre reception or Peel Vision.

2. Transport on the day of surgery

Please arrange a driver to bring you to and from the hospital on the day of surgery. If taking a taxi home, you must be accompanied by a friend or family member. Your driver will be contacted with a time to pick you up, after your surgery has been completed.

3. Dressing for surgery

Please thoroughly clean your face and eyelids on the morning of surgery, and do not wear any make-up (particularly eyeliner or mascara) or face-creams. If you wear contact lenses, take them out on the morning of surgery.

4. Support at home on the first day of surgery

We recommend all patients to have support at home on the first night after surgery, whether it is your partner/spouse, family or a friend. This is because you may be groggy after the sedation from your surgery, particularly if you have had a general anaesthetic. Also, you may have a patch over the operated eye when you return home, which may make walking and other activities more difficult.

POST OPERATIVE HEALING AND WOUND CARE

1. How to apply COOL COMPRESSES after eyelid surgery

Cold compresses may include a clean towel soaked in ice-cold water, ice cubes wrapped in a plastic bag and towel, or a commercial gel-filled eye mask. They should be commenced immediately after your eye pads are removed (see below).

Apply the compresses as often as you can (at least 4 times per day), particularly in the first 3 days after surgery. Apply the compresses for about 3 minutes, or until the cold subsides. The most benefit from cold compresses is in the first week after surgery.

2. How to apply EYE OINTMENT after eyelid surgery

This will usually be Chlorsig eye ointment, which is an antibiotic cream used to reduce the risk of infection. Commence this ointment after the eye pad has been removed and the eyelid cleaned.

The ointment should be applied 4 times per day to the eyelid skin, usually where the stitch line is. It should be applied as a thin smear, using a clean finger. It does NOT need to be put into the eye itself unless you are advised to do so by Dr Then.

Please note that the ointment is sticky and may get into your eye. If so, it may cause mild blurring in the eye. You may gently wash it out of the eye with artificial tears/lubricating eye drops to clear your vision.

AFTER SURGERY

1. What to expect

After eyelid surgery, it is normal to develop swelling and bruising around the eyelids, and sometimes it will also extend into the cheeks and lower face. The amount and duration of swelling and bruising will vary according to each patient and the type of surgery performed.

Pain after eyelid surgery is usually mild, and easily controlled with over-the-counter pain killers. The eyelids may also feel tight, tender and slightly itchy for up to 6 weeks after surgery.

There should never be severe pain or visual problems after eyelid surgery. If so, please call our office on 9535 4321. If after hours, we recommend seeing your GP or the emergency department if symptoms are severe.

You will have sutures placed in the incision lines on or around your eyelids. Both self-dissolving or non-dissolving sutures may be used, depending on the type of surgery performed. If self-dissolving, they usually take up to 6 weeks to completely disappear. If non-dissolving, they are removed by Dr Then 7-10 days after surgery. Sutures may break or loosen in the early post-operative period –these will be removed, and this does not usually affect the outcome of surgery.

Any incisions on or around your eyelids are usually hidden in the natural creases of your eyelid, so that any visible scarring is minimal. The incision may turn red, bumpy, develop small cysts or whiteheads, or feel numb. These are usually temporary changes. Any scars generally continue to fade and soften for about 6 months.

Some patients experience symptoms of dry eye during the healing process of surgery. These symptoms may include general feeling of dryness, gritty feeling, foreign body sensation, occasion excessive watering. Artificial tears, available from any pharmacy are recommended for use 4 times a day until your symptoms subside.

2. Caring for your eyelids:

If you have an eye pad on, keep it clean and dry. You will be advised when the eye pad should be removed. Once the eye pad is removed, gently bathe the eyelid with clean warm water and sterile gauze. Then:

- Begin cold compresses to the eyelids (see separate instructions). This will help reduce bruising and swelling
- Begin the prescribed antibiotic eye ointment (see separate instructions)
- Resume your normal medication
- Take simple pain killers (eg Paracetamol) if any discomfort
- Feel free to shower, wash hair etc, patting area gently to dry and apply ointment as instructed.

You should rest quietly on the first day, then resume normal duties (including driving) as your level of comfort and vision improves.

You should not:

- Swim in the first 2-4 weeks after surgery
- Wear any eye make-up or cover make-up over the wounds, until advised it is safe
- Expose your eyelids to strong sunlight for 3 months after surgery