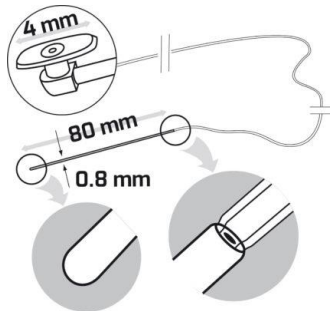


Insertion of Tubes for Blocked Tear Ducts



A small tube with a plug is inserted into the tear duct. Our ENT colleagues assist with this procedure to displace some of the cartilage in the nose, which increases the drainage of tears. It is common to have a watery eye directly after the surgery as the tears cannot drain well through the affected tear duct while the very small tube is still in place. Insertion of tubes leaves no facial scars. The tubes are left in place for 3-6 months after surgery. This allows a new lining to form around the tubes, leaving an open channel in the tear duct when the tubes are removed. The tubes are usually easily removed at an outpatient clinic visit.



Potential problems include the following:

- The hole in the corner of the eyelid through which tears drain (punctum) may be damaged.
- The lining of the eyelids (conjunctiva) may become irritated.
- Some bleeding from the nose after surgery.
- The child may feel discomfort inside his or her nose.
- The tube may loosen and move out of place or rarely fall out completely.
- There is a small risk of infection which can cause a sticky eye.

Post-operative Advice:

- Try to discourage your child from picking his/her nose or from rubbing his/her eyes to reduce the risk of the child dislodging the tubes.
- Instil eye drops as advised.
- Avoid warm drinks 2 weeks after surgery.

What to do if the tubes become dislodged:

- Don't panic!
- Premature removal of the tubes may reduce the success of the operation but will not harm your child in any way.
- The tubes can be easily removed with a gentle pull.



During the working week, contact the Paediatric Eye Nurse on 07825810843 who will advise on where and when to attend for removal of tubes. If possible, this will be accommodated within 24 hours at a paediatric eye clinic.

At weekends/Bank Holidays, the GP out of hours will need to refer you to Eye Casualty, the Old Victorian Corridor, in the main RVH building between the hours of 9.00am -1.00pm.

After 5pm on weekdays or after 1.00pm on weekends/Bank Holidays, you can bring your child to the Children's casualty in RBHSC but you may have a long wait for an Eye Doctor. If your child is comfortable, it is fine to wait until Monday and phone nurse mobile.