Repair of Blocked Tear Duct
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We have written this pamphlet to help you learn how to care for yourself safely after surgery.

The medical term for this operation is dacryocystorhinostomy (DCR). The operation makes a new tear drain so tears can drain directly into your nose. A plastic tube may be inserted during surgery. It will be taken out at a later date (6 weeks to 3 months later depending on your surgeon).

Follow-up

You will be given a time to visit your eye surgeon.

Report these symptoms to your eye surgeon right away:

- nosebleed that is progressive or not settling after pinching your nose for at least 6 - 10 minutes (not interrupted) and placing ice on the surgical site.
- decreased vision.
- increased redness, swelling, or pain.
- if the tube becomes dislodged.

Before Surgery

- Please read the pamphlet Getting Ready for Eye Surgery.
- If you are taking ASA (Aspirin®) or blood thinners (such as warfarin), be sure to notify your eye surgeon’s office before surgery. If needed, an appointment will be made for you at the Pre Admission Clinic.
- Let your eye surgeon’s office know if you are
taking any vitamins and/or herbal therapies (such as multi-vitamins, green tea, garlic, Chinese herbs, Vitamin E, or gingko).

Surgery

• You may have a local anesthetic with a sedative (be partly awake during your surgery) or have a general anesthetic (be asleep).
• The surgery will take about one hour.

After Surgery

• You may have some bleeding through your throat and/or nose. This is normal for the first 3 days. Do not blow your nose for 1 week after surgery.
• Your eye may still be “watery” while the tubes are in place and up to 8 weeks after surgery.
• Avoid straining and heavy lifting for 1 week.
• Do not drink anything hot for about 24 hours.

Cold Compresses

Place cold compresses over the bridge of your nose for 48 hours. Fill a large bowl with ice cubes and water. Using 2 facecloths, change them every 20 minutes while you are awake.

Discomfort

You may feel some discomfort when the freezing wears off. Do not be alarmed – take acetaminophen (Tylenol®) for pain.

Dressing

You may have an eye patch. There may be a dressing under your eye. It can be changed as needed and removed the morning after surgery. You do not need a dressing at home.

Stitches

You may have stitches on the side of your
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If you are unable to contact your eye surgeon call locating at the VG (473-2222) and ask to have the ophthalmology resident on call paged or go to the nearest Emergency Department.

We are here to help you. Do not hesitate to ask us any questions.
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