

Patient information

Mitomycin C and glaucoma surgery

This leaflet is designed to be read in conjunction with the trabeculectomy leaflet.

Trabeculectomy with Mitomycin C

A small drainage channel is made in a section of the tissue at the junction of the cornea and sclera (at the junction of the clear window and the white of the eye) and removed in order to create in effect a small safety valve to allow the fluid within the eye to escape and reduce the eye pressure, which causes damage to the nerve and to the sight.

This operation is successful in 80-90% of patients but may fail after some months or years or earlier in certain patients. The causes of failure are essentially due to scar tissue formation. This is particularly liable to occur in young patients, black patients, patients who have had previous eye surgery and in some patients who have been on eye drops for many years. Other patients at risk are those who have had chronic inflammation within the eye.

Mitomycin C

The cause of failure of trabeculectomy are related to the formation of fibrous (scar) tissue caused by the activity of cells known as fibroblasts.

Mitomycin C is an anti-tumour drug but one which has been found to have a very long-lasting effect in suppressing the activity of the fibroblasts and therefore reducing the likelihood of scarring and failure of the operation.

The risks of using Mitomycin C have to be balanced against the possibility of the trabeculectomy operation failing with loss of vision from progression of the glaucoma.

It has been shown that eyes treated with Mitomycin C achieve lower eye pressures with fewer eye drops post-operatively. The drug is quite toxic and has to be used very carefully and can produce unwanted effects such as clouding of the cornea and cataract. In a few patients, eyes have developed visual problems due to hypotony (very soft eye). Long term, over very many years, there is thought to be an increased risk of infection entering the eye.

Your surgeon will discuss these issues with you prior to surgery.

If you wish to contact the

Eye Department

Telephone 01284 713815 / 01284 712636

Monday to Thursday 9:00am to 5:00pm

Friday 9:00am to 1:00pm

At the weekend and out of hours:

Telephone 01284 713000 and ask to speak to the 'on call' ophthalmic doctor.

If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the website for AccessAble (formerly DisabledGo)

<https://www.accessable.co.uk>

