

Dacryocystorhinostomy (DCR)

This material will help you understand dacryocystorhinostomy or DCR.

What is DCR?

DCR is a surgical procedure that is performed to create a new tear duct between the eye and the nose. Tears normally drain through small openings in the corners of the eyelids into the tear sac. They then enter the nose through the nasolacrimal duct. If your duct is blocked, tears cannot drain normally. Tears may well up on the surface of your eye and overflow onto your eyelashes, eyelids, and cheeks as if you are crying. If it is not treated, this can lead to an infection of the tear sac. DCR is the most common surgical treatment for a blocked tear duct.

How is DCR performed?

DCR is typically performed as an outpatient procedure using local or general anesthesia. During the procedure, your doctor will create a new drain opening directly into your nose. This will bypass the blockage. Your doctor will do this by making a small incision in the skin or on the inside of your nose. Your doctor will also make an opening in the bone on the side of your nose. A silicone stent may be inserted into the new duct to keep it open while you are healing. If the blockage cannot be opened, a tiny glass drain may be inserted and kept in permanently to open the tear duct.

What should I expect after a DCR?

Your doctor may prescribe an antibiotic ointment or drops. Follow your doctor's instructions on what medicine to take. Most people fully recover within one week of surgery.

What are the risks of DCR?

Like all surgeries, there are some risks associated with DCR. Common complications include minor bruising and swelling. This typically goes away within two weeks of surgery. Bleeding and infection are also potential risks, but are relatively uncommon. In some cases, scar tissue forms after surgery. This may block the tear duct and require additional surgery to correct. However, in most cases, patients recover shortly after surgery with little, if any, discomfort.

For more information, scan this code with your smartphone or visit the website listed.



<http://www.asoprs.org/files/public/InfoDcr.pdf>

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