

Evisceration

This material will help you understand evisceration and what to expect before and after the procedure.

What is evisceration?

Evisceration is a surgery that removes the contents of the eye, but leaves the white part of the eye (sclera) and the muscle around the eye in place. The procedure may be recommended in cases of severe eye injury, pain in a blind eye, or severe infection.

What should I expect before the surgery?

Before the surgery, your doctor will evaluate you and make sure that you are a good candidate for the surgery. He/she will discuss the possible risks of the surgery and provide you with special instructions on how to prepare for the surgery. You will be prescribed shatterproof glasses to wear at all times to protect your remaining eye.

What should I expect on the day of the surgery?

Evisceration is an outpatient surgery that is performed under general anesthesia. Be sure to arrange to have a responsible adult come with you, wait during surgery, and go back home with you. This person may stay with you until you are brought into the operating room.

How is the surgery performed?

During the surgery, a doctor will remove the contents of the eye and place an implant in the remaining shell. The implant is a sphere made of silicone, plastic, or other material. The white of the eye is then closed over this implant. A conformer (a clear plastic shell) will be placed to help the eye socket keep its shape. Your lids will be sutured closed and bandaged.

What should I expect after the surgery?

You will be able to go home the same day as your procedure. You may have pain for the first few days, and some people also complain of having a dull headache for about two weeks after surgery. Your doctor will prescribe a pain-reliever and anti-nausea medication. He/she will also recommend ointment and drops. Follow your doctor's instructions on what medicine you should take. You can remove the pressure bandage 6-14 days after surgery. If you would like, you can wear a patch over your eye until you receive your prosthesis. If the conformer falls out, wash it with soap and water and reinsert it between your eyelids. If you are unable to reinsert it, please call your doctor within 24 hours. As you are healing, be careful not to expose your eye socket to dirt or go swimming. Do not clean or rub the inside of your eye. After your procedure, your doctor will want to follow up with you in about 2 to 6 weeks. This will help detect any complications that may require additional treatment.

What is an artificial eye or prosthesis?

After the surgery you will be fitted for an artificial eye, known as a prosthesis. A prosthesis is custom made by an artist called an ocularist to fit in your eye socket. It is held in place by your eyelids. It is painted to match the color of your other eye and can be easily removed.

You will have about 3 appointments to fit your prosthesis. The first appointment will be about 6 to 8 weeks after your surgery. During this visit, the ocularist will take an impression and mold of your eye socket. The ocularist will then use this mold to create a prosthesis that matches the curves of your socket. He/she will also begin painting the prosthesis. You will receive the prosthesis on the second visit and will be given instructions on how to care for it. About one month after you have been wearing your prosthesis, you will have a third appointment to see if any adjustments are needed.

What are the risks and complications of surgery?

Like all surgeries, evisceration has some risks. In the short-term, possible complications include:

- Redness and swelling
- Pain or nausea not relieved with medication
- Discharge
- Bleeding
- Infection

Long-term complications include discharge, irritation of the eye socket, and exposure of the implant. In some cases, people require additional surgeries years after having an evisceration. This can happen if the lower eyelid loosens from wearing a prosthesis or tissue in the eye socket breaks down. Talk to your doctor about any questions or concerns you have about the procedure. If you notice signs of a complication, call your doctor right away.

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



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

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