

Patient information factsheet

Having an eye operation under local anaesthetic (afternoon operation)

Your doctor has recommended that you have an eye operation under local anaesthetic. This factsheet explains how to prepare for your operation and what to expect on the day.

Your name:	
Date of your operation:	
	Please arrive at Southampton eye unit, eye short stay unit (ESSU), C level at 12.30pm.

If you **cannot** come for your operation on this date, please contact the eye unit admissions team as soon as possible on telephone: **023 8120 4197** or **023 8120 8734**.

Before your operation

- If you need a carer to be with you during your visit to hospital, please telephone the eye short stay unit on **023 8120 6595** before the day of your operation and ask to speak to the nurse in charge.
- Plan your transport to and from the hospital. You should not drive to the hospital for your operation. Your eye will be covered after the operation so you will not be able to drive back afterwards.
- The nursing team will ring you 48 hours before the operation to confirm your attendance and ask you some pre-admission questions.

On the morning of your operation

- Eat and drink as normal but avoid fatty foods or very large meals.
- Take all normal medication including insulin unless your doctor advises you not to.
- Have a bath or shower in the morning or evening before coming in for your operation. This will help to decrease your chance of getting an infection after the operation.
- Do not wear nail varnish, make up or jewellery as these items can interfere with the electrical equipment during the operation. If you wear a wedding ring you can keep this on, but we will cover it with tape during the operation.
- You will wear your own clothes throughout your operation. Please wear loose, comfortable and washable clothes, and flat shoes. Your collar may get wet, so please bring a spare top.
- Leave all valuables at home. There are no storage facilities for any valuables at the hospital.

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On the day of your operation,

On the day of your operation please come to Southampton eye unit, eye short stay unit (ESSU), C level at 12.30pm.

Please arrive on time and be prepared to be in hospital for between four to five hours. The team of doctors decide the order in which patients are treated, but this order can change during the course of the afternoon.

Unfortunately, there is not enough space on the eye short stay unit for relatives or friends to wait with you. If your relative or friend would like to stay and wait in the hospital, there are several coffee shops and other waiting areas available.

Before your operation, a nurse will give you a full explanation of what will happen during your visit to hospital. In the operating theatre, your doctor will discuss your procedure with you and ask you to sign your consent form.

After your operation

We will ask you to stay on the ward for at least an hour after your operation so that we can make sure there are no problems. We will give you refreshments while you are waiting on the ward.

We will explain anything you need to know about your care and give you some written information before you leave. We may also give you drops or ointment to use when you go home. If you have trouble putting drops into your eyes, please ask a member of your family or a friend to help.

Contact us

Eye unit
Southampton General Hospital
Tremona Road
Southampton
SO16 6YD

Telephone: **023 8120 6595** or **023 8120 8600**

The eye unit is located next to the emergency department at Southampton General Hospital. If you come through the main entrance, follow the signs to the eye unit. The main eye reception is on B level. The eye short stay unit is one floor above on C level.

If you are a patient at one of our hospitals and need this document translated, or in another format such as easy read, large print, Braille or audio, please telephone **0800 484 0135** or email **patientsupporthub@uhs.nhs.uk**

For help preparing for your visit, arranging an interpreter or accessing the hospital, please visit **www.uhs.nhs.uk/additionalsupport**