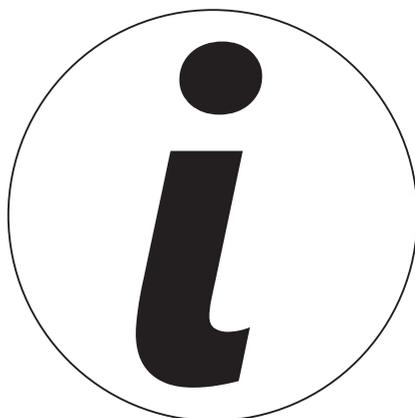


Baerveldt valve



Information for patients

Ophthalmology



Large Print

PROUD TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

SHEFFIELD TEACHING HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST



What is glaucoma?

Glaucoma is raised pressure within the eye, which destroys the nerves in the retina at the back of the eye. This can result in gradual loss of the peripheral field (outside edges) of vision and if left untreated, can subsequently lead to blindness.

What can be done to control the pressure?

There are measures that can be taken to try to control the pressure and keep it at an acceptable level. This usually involves the instillation of eye drops which open the drainage channels within the eye and allow fluid to drain away, therefore maintaining the pressure at an acceptable level.

What happens if these don't work?

At the point where drops fail to maintain a normal range of pressure within the eye, it will be necessary to take further steps in order to prevent further irreversible nerve damage occurring in the eye.

Does that mean I will need to have an operation?

Sometimes there is no alternative but to have surgery. This will have been discussed with you in detail at your clinic visit.

There are several different glaucoma operations and, depending on the severity of your case, your consultant will have explained and discussed with you which operation is appropriate in your individual case.

What is the name of my operation?

The procedure that you're having is called **valve** or **tube** surgery and the valve / tubes that we use are called **Baerveldt** or **Ahmed**.

What is it and how does it work?

It involves putting in a small valve under the skin of your eye (conjunctiva) and a tube coming from that valve into the chamber at the front of your eye.

The valve then helps to maintain the pressure in your eye and the tube drains away the excess fluid.

Are there any risks involved?

These will have been discussed in detail when you were put on the waiting list and can be discussed again at any time with your surgeon.

Consent

We must obtain your consent for any procedure or treatment beforehand. We will explain all the risks, benefits and alternatives before we ask for your consent.

If you are unsure about any aspect of the procedure or treatment proposed, please do not hesitate to ask for more information.

How long will the operation take?

The operation takes approximately 1 - 2 hours to perform.

Do I need to do anything beforehand to prepare?

No, you will continue to use your regular eye drops right up until the day of your operation.

What type of anaesthetic will I have?

This operation is performed under general anaesthetic as it can be painful and we need you to be completely still.

Will I be seen again after clinic but before my surgery?

Yes, you will have an appointment with the Specialist Nurse in the eye department, as well as on J Floor for a pre-operative assessment to assess and discuss your general health, medical history and medication and to perform some tests (e.g. blood test / ECG) prior to the general anaesthetic.

These appointments are often on the same day to avoid you having to make multiple visits to the hospital.

You will also be given both verbal and written information about your operation and anaesthetic.

This is also the opportunity for you to ask questions. However, if you think of anything after you leave, there are contact numbers at the end of this booklet to call so you can clarify anything you may have forgotten or misunderstood.

What happens if I am ill before or on the day of my operation?

The SPA (single point of access) team will have contacted you a few days before your operation to check that you are well. However, if you think your health has changed since that call or you are unsure if you should come for your operation, telephone us for advice.

Please contact the Waiting List Co-ordinators on: **0114 226 8486** between the hours of 8.00am and 5.00pm. There is an answering machine available if you wish to leave us a message.

How do I prepare for my operation?

Your operation is to be carried out under (please tick)

- general anaesthetic
- local anaesthetic plus sedation

Can I eat and drink on my day of admission? If your operation is in the morning

Do not eat anything from 2.00am. However, please remember to have a glass of water no later than 1 hour prior to your admission time.

This will help to prevent post-operative complications related to dehydration.

If your operation is in the afternoon

You may have a light breakfast (such as toast or cereal) before 7.30am then do not eat anything further and have only sips of water until no later than 1 hour before your admission time, then please have a glass of water.

This will help to prevent post-operative complications related to dehydration. Please do not have tea / coffee with milk after 7.30am.

Further instructions for the day of your operation

Nothing to eat includes chewing gum, betel nuts or sucking sweets.

You may clean your teeth and rinse your mouth out.

Please do not wear any jewellery, make-up or nail varnish (on either your hands or toes) on your operation day.

What will my vision be like after the operation?

There is no definitive answer to this question, which is frustrating.

Every patient's vision is individual to them but we would expect it to be blurred.

How long this takes to settle is difficult to predict, but we would expect it to take approximately 1-2 months to return to pre-operation levels (assuming no complications).

Is there any pain after the operation?

It is normal for your eye to feel gritty. This is often described as a foreign body sensation and artificial tears may help. It shouldn't be painful.

Your eye may water and it may be more comfortable for you to keep it closed (where possible).

We advise that you take simple painkillers (e.g. paracetamol) as this will help, although will not take it away completely.

If you experience persistent pain that doesn't go away after taking the painkillers, we would strongly suggest

you contact us on the emergency numbers provided later on in this booklet.

What after-care will I need?

You are having a general anaesthetic and you will need a responsible adult (aged 18 or over) to stay with you for the first 24 hours after your operation.

We ask that you are collected by this adult at time of discharge and then get a lift or taxi home.

You will not be allowed to walk home or go home on public transport.

If this is not possible, please make sure you let the nursing staff know and we will try to make alternative arrangements for you.

You will have been given eye drops at the time of your discharge, please follow the advice you have been given. if there is any doubt about what to do, please contact the Specialist Nurse or Waiting List Coordinators on one of the numbers provided at the back of this booklet.

What follow-up appointments will I need?

You will be seen within a few days of your operation by your Consultant or one of the team.

Any further follow-ups will be dependent on your condition and how your eye settles.

Your operation details

Please report to the Day Case Centre situated on B Road (before the main hospital entrance, see map on next page) at the time below.

Please arrive on time. If you are going to be late please call the Day Case Centre on **0114 271 3939**

Day

Date

Time

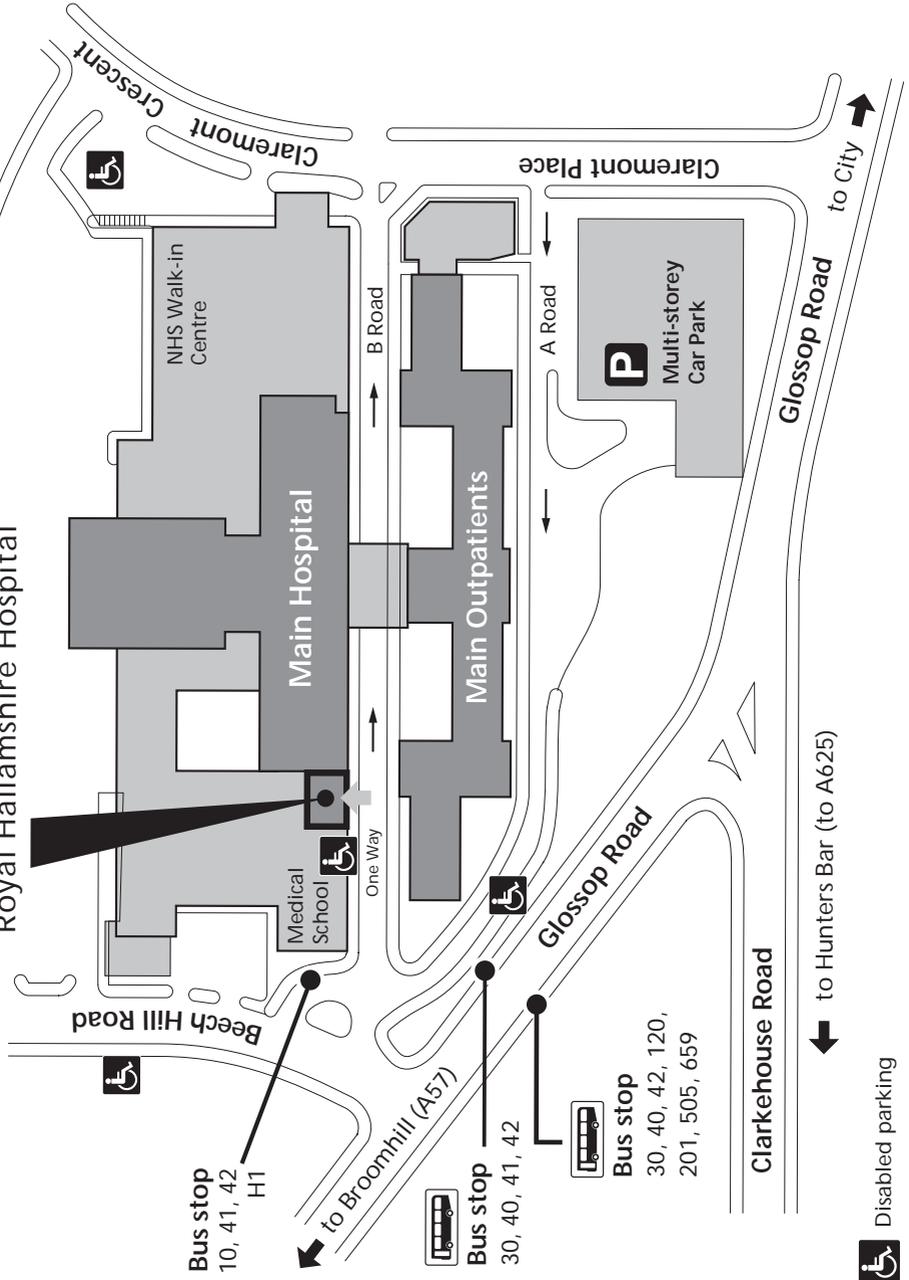
Surgeon

Your Hospital Reference Number

Please quote this number whenever you call as it will help us locate your medical records.

Day Case Centre

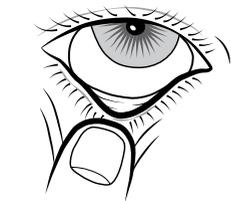
Royal Hallamshire Hospital



Is there anything I can do to help recovery?

- Take regular simple painkillers (e.g. Paracetamol) to relieve some of the discomfort.
- Continue to bathe as normal, please ensure that you do not get anything into your eye as this will make you want to rub it and this is not recommended.
- Instil the post-operative eye drops as directed upon discharge.

How should I instil my eye drops?



Pull down the lower eyelid until there is a small pocket between the lid and the eye.



Squeeze the upturned dropper bottle to release a drop into your eye.

Do not let the nozzle touch your eye.

Is there anything I should look out for when I go home?

Call your specialist / assessment nurse if you experience any of the following symptoms:

- eye pain that does not ease after taking your painkillers
- pain around your eye
- feeling nauseous or starting to vomit

If the assessment nurse / specialist nurse is not available please use the emergency contact numbers at the back of this booklet.

There is always someone you can speak to for advice.

Is there anything I should avoid?

- Using soap and water to wash your face.
- Rubbing or touching your eye unless it's to dab tears away with a clean **disposable** tissue.
- **Do not** use a handkerchief to wipe your eye – it doesn't matter how clean it is.

Who should I contact if I have any concerns?

If you have any further questions then please do not hesitate to get in touch with one of the team on one of the following numbers:

The specialist / assessment nurses (7.00am - 5.00pm most days)

- **0114 271 3828** (Answer service - please leave your name, phone number and hospital reference number)
- **0114 271 1900** (Hospital switchboard - ask for Bleep 2224) for emergencies

The Waiting List Coordinators (8.00am - 5.00pm)

- **0114 226 8486**
- **0114 226 1291**

For urgent concerns you should contact:

Emergency Eye Centre (8.00am - 4.30pm)

- **0114 271 2726**
- **0114 271 2495**

Ward I1 (4.30pm - 8.00am)

- **0114 271 2504**

Emergency Doctor on Call (5.00pm - 8.00am)

- **0114 271 1900** (Hospital switchboard - ask for the Eye Doctor on Call)



**Sheffield
Hospitals
Charity**

To help support your local hospitals visit
sheffieldhospitalscharity.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1165762



Yes I donate
ORGAN DONATION

**Alternative formats can be available on request.
Please email: sth.alternativeformats@nhs.net**

© Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust 2019

Re-use of all or any part of this document is governed by copyright and the "Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005" SI 2005 No. 1515. Information on re-use can be obtained from the Information Governance Department, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals. Email sth.infogov@nhs.net