

## HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS STRABISMUS SURGERY

### I. INTRODUCTION

#### A. GENERAL INFORMATION

Strabismus is often referred to as “crossed eyes” indicating the eyes are not straight. Your child has had eye surgery to help straighten the eyes.

### II. INSTRUCTIONS

The following instructions are for the care of your child at home:

- A. ACTIVITY: Immediately after surgery your child may be somewhat drowsy and still slightly sedated. Soon after, your child will be able to resume normal activities. Your child should not submerge his/her head completely under water for the next two weeks, so as not to absorb the sutures too quickly. Showers and baths are permitted, but swimming is not allowed.
- B. MEDICATION: Your doctor may prescribe eye drops or ointment. Please use as directed by your surgeon.  
(Pediatric Patients)- If your child will not allow drops to be put in without a struggle, please do not force the drops. You can put them in while your child is sleeping or completely disregard.
- C. BLEEDING: You may notice some bloody redness in the corners of the eyes where the surgery has been performed. This is normal and may be apparent even up to six weeks after surgery. The operated eye will not be patched. Your child should not rub his/her eyes.
- D. SUTURES: The sutures used in the surgery are absorbable. Therefore, no suture removal is necessary.
- E. DOUBLE VISION: After eye muscle surgery, your child may experience double vision. This is due to the re-alignment of the eyes. It usually goes away in a few days, but it may persist for two to three weeks.

- F. VOMITING: Some vomiting is normal for the first 24 hours after surgery. If vomiting persists for greater than 24 hours, notify your surgeon. (Drinking and eating clear liquids and soft foods, generally low in fat, may be of some help to the nausea).
- G. EYEGASSES: If your child wore glasses prior to surgery, your doctor will discuss with you, his/her need to continue wearing them after surgery.

### III. WHEN TO CALL THE DOCTOR

- A. PROBLEMS TO REPORT: If there is any increase in pain, or any signs of infection (excessive swelling, pus from the eye, red streaks coming from the eye, or a fever) notify your doctor.
- B. WHO TO CALL: If you have any questions or concerns, please call:
  - 1. CEC, 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri. 751-2020
  - 2. Dr. Mark Scott, M.D. Cell: 834-2941
  - 3. Dr. James Richard, M.D. Cell: 812-6056
  - 4. Dr. Lucas Trigler, M.D. Cell: 819-9211
  - 5. Dr. Randy Brown, M.D. Cell: 642-4125

If you develop further problems or your condition or symptoms worsen, call or visit your primary physician. If you can't reach your physician, call or return to an emergency department.

### IV. RETURN APPOINTMENT

Following your child's surgery, you will need to call Children's Eye Care and schedule your return appointment for a two or six week checkup, depending on whether your child's eyes turn in or out. Your surgeon will discuss with you if your child needs to return in two or six weeks.