

Frequently asked questions

1. Will I need to have Trabeculectomy surgery repeated?

Many patients, about 80%, still have safe low eye pressure 4-5 years after the surgery. Many procedures will still be successful decades later. However about 20% of procedures fail to control the eye pressure during the first few years post surgery and additional surgery will be required.

2. How long should I take off work/sport/swimming etc

You will need to take approximately 7-14 days off work, sport and swimming. Please discuss this with Dr Phipps. He can provide you with a sick certificate for this period.

3. When can I drive after Trabeculectomy?

You will need to avoid driving for 7-14 days. Please discuss this with Dr Phipps. It is also recommended that you wear sunglasses during the day for the following week after you commence driving.

4. Do I need someone with me?

Yes. You will need a support person to transport you from the day surgery after the procedure. You are advised to have someone with you for the first 24 hours.

You will find more information about Glaucoma through **Glaucoma Australia**
www.glaucoma.org.au



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**Important
information about
Trabeculectomy
surgery**



What is Trabeculectomy Surgery (Filtration Surgery) for Glaucoma?

The surgery creates a controlled outward flow of fluid from your eye by creating a drainage site called a 'bleb' thereby bypassing your existing drainage channels which are under-functioning.

The controlled leak site or bleb is completely covered by your sclera and conjunctiva (white part of the eye). As the bleb is usually at the top of the eye it is not visible.

What happens during the surgery?

The procedure takes place at the Tennyson Day Hospital. It is performed under local anaesthetic with sedation administered by an Anaesthetist. Your eye will be held open by an 'eye speculum' to avoid blinking during the surgery.

The procedure will take about 80 minutes. Dr Phipps will also use anti-scarring agents at the time of surgery to ensure long term success. As part of the procedure Dr Phipps usually places releasable sutures.

Why do I need to have this procedure?

This surgery is performed to treat glaucoma. It is recommended when medicine and laser treatments have failed to successfully reduce the eye pressure. Reduction of your eye pressure is necessary to prevent damage to your optic nerve and hence loss of vision.

What will happen after the surgery?

Your eye will remain covered after the procedure for approximately 24 hours. You will see Dr Phipps the following day after surgery and then generally every week for a month. You will be given antibiotic and anti-inflammatory eye drops to be administered for up to three months to your operated eye.

During this time releasable sutures may be removed by Dr Phipps in the clinic to help keep the eye pressure low. You will also be asked to refrain from strenuous exercise or other exertions during the healing process. Dr Phipps will give you directions.

What are the side effects?

You may experience some redness, eye discomfort, blurry vision and sensitivity to bright light after the procedure for up to two to three weeks.

What are the risks for Trabeculectomy Surgery?

Dr Phipps will discuss the risks with you in detail.

Very rarely infection can lead to visual loss. The surgery can sometimes lower the eye pressure too much or there may be a leak from the bleb. Both of these situations may require another operation.

Common late complications may be a cataract or a droop of the eyelid both of which may require surgery. Sometimes glasses will need to be adjusted three months after the surgery to improve your vision.

It is important to remember when considering the risks of the surgery to also consider the high risk of visual loss from glaucoma if surgery is not performed.