Eye Socket Care

A plastic shell called a conformer has been placed in your child's eye socket. This conformer was put in the eye socket after surgery and will be left in place until the eye socket is ready for an artificial eye (prosthesis). The conformer should be left in place until it is removed by the doctor. If the conformer falls out, it is ok to reposition if the doctors and nurse have instructed you how to do it. Otherwise, clean it, put it in an envelope and contact the clinic for further instruction.

How to keep the eye socket clean

- Gently wash the eyelids and eyelashes with a soft, clean washcloth and warm water. Pat dry.
- It is normal to have slight drainage. Wipe this drainage away with a clean tissue. Start at the inside of the eye (next to the nose) and wipe toward the ear. Use a fresh tissue each time.
- Once the bandage is removed after surgery, the patient can shower with the water running over the head and onto the face to clean the eyelids and socket.

Medicines

Your doctor may give you a prescription for medicines or ointment. Use these medicines as directed.

Follow-up appointments

- You have an appointment with your child's doctor on (date)_________at (time) _______.
- Please call the doctor if you cannot keep this appointment.
What to expect at your appointment

- Your child's eye doctor may remove the conformer and examine the eye socket. When the socket is healed, the doctor will then refer you to an ocularist. This is a technician who will make the artificial eye. The ocularist will teach you how to put in the prosthesis and how to keep it clean. The conformer will be used until the permanent artificial eye is made.

- You may want to talk to your doctor about having your child wear safety glasses. Safety glasses are advised for patients who have only one working eye.

When to call the doctor

Call the Nationwide Children’s Hospital Eye Clinic or your doctor if your child has:

- Pain in the eye socket.
- The tissue in the eye socket becomes red and swollen.
- Drainage from the eye socket increases or changes color (for example, changes from clear to yellow). Sockets with a prosthesis will usually have more drainage than a normal eye.
- Any problems develop in the other eye.

If you have any questions, be sure to ask your doctor or nurse, or call the Eye Clinic at (614) 722-4077.