

TAILORED EYES

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Permanent Punctal Occlusion Consent Form

Dry Eye Disease and Proposed Treatment

Typical symptoms of dry eye include dryness, burning, tearing, a sensation that something is in the eye, inability to read for prolonged periods of time, and fluctuating vision. In some cases, dry eyes are caused by the body's failure to produce enough tears, other times the body is producing poor quality tears. Treatment of dry eye disease includes trying to increase the lubrication of the eyes by using artificial tears and ointments, dry eye medications, steroid eye drops, or by blocking the tear drainage ducts to slow down the loss of tears from the surface of the eyes.

Permanent punctal occlusion involves the use of thermal cautery (heat) or a laser to close the opening to the tear drainage duct. This procedure is usually permanent, and not reversible. It is usually recommended in patients that have felt improvement in their dry eye disease after trying temporary punctal plugs. Punctal occlusion can be performed on the lower eyelids, upper eyelids, or both upper and lower eyelids.

Risks of Permanent Punctal Occlusion:

1. Infection from the localized damage to the eyelid.
2. Increased tearing because the tears can no longer drain away from the eye.
3. Scarring of the eyelid margin.
4. Irritation at the site of the punctum, especially while healing.
5. Inability to reverse the operation because of permanent damage to the lining of the punctum and canaliculus (the entire length of the tear drainage duct in the eyelid).

Alternatives to Permanent Punctal Occlusion

1. Artificial tears and ointments. Intensive topical lubrication of the eye with frequent instillation of artificial tears and ointment provides some relief of dry eye symptoms. It is often not sufficient by itself in moderate to severe cases.
2. Cyclosporin or lifitigrastr or other topical anti-inflammatory or immune modulating drops, can reduce ocular irritation and increase tear production in some cases.
3. Nutritional supplements such as omega-6 fatty acids and fish oils can reduce ocular inflammation and dry eye symptoms.
4. Temporary punctal occlusion can increase the moisture on the ocular surface but the punctal plugs can cause irritation or fall out, and the dissolving intracanalicular collagen plugs dissolve after several months.

5. Observation without any treatment is a possible choice, but your dry eye condition will likely remain or may progress

As with any surgical procedure complications may occur. If a complication happens during surgery, your surgeon may need to perform another surgery right away to treat it. Your surgeon may discover a new condition or problem for the first time during the surgery. The surgeon may need to change the plan for surgery to treat this problem or condition right away.

PATIENT’S ACCEPTANCE OF RISKS

In signing this informed consent, I am stating that:

_____ I have been offered a copy of this consent to take home.

_____ I have filled in all the blank spaces.

_____ My ophthalmologist has answered all of my questions and this form has been fully explained to me. I fully understand the possible risks, benefits, and complications of the surgery.

_____ I have read this informed consent or this consent was read to me by

_____ (name).

On the basis of the above statements, I voluntarily consent and authorize Steven Kane, MD, (my ophthalmologist) to perform a permanent punctal closure surgery on my (please circle)

LOWER / UPPER RIGHT EYELID

LOWER / UPPER LEFT EYELID

Patient Signature

Date

Witness Signature