

TAILORED EYES

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PUNCTAL PLUG 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.

Temporary punctal plugs can be placed in the tear duct drainage. Normally, these temporary plugs are placed and can be removed in the office at the microscope. Your doctor may recommend trying one eye first to see if you notice improvement in your dry eye disease after placement of the plug. Punctal occlusion can be performed on the lower eyelids, upper eyelids, or both upper and lower eyelids.

Risks of Punctal Plug placement:

1. Infection of the eye or eyelid
2. The plug can fall out or dislocate
3. Allergic reaction to the plug (plugs are typically made of silicone or hydrogel)
4. Increased tearing because the tears can no longer drain away from the eye
5. Scarring of the eyelid margin.
6. Irritation at the site of the punctum or of the eye
7. Inability to reverse the procedure or remove the plug

Alternatives to 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. 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.

_____ 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 punctal plug placement on my (Please Circle)

LOWER / UPPER RIGHT eyelid

LOWER / UPPER LEFT eyelid

Patient Signature

Date

Witness Signature