

POST OP INSTRUCTIONS-PEDIATRIC TEAR DUCT SURGERY

* It is common for your child to be slightly confused after anesthesia, which may result in crying. This does not mean they are in pain, as they are given numbing medicine during surgery which lasts several hours after the surgery. They can also sleep a lot or have a loss of appetite or nausea or vomiting. They usually behave normally by the next day. If these symptoms persist after 24 hours, contact your doctor.

* It is common to have mild bleeding out the nostrils the first 24-48 hours after tear duct surgery especially if crying or actively playing. Try to have your children take it easy the first two days after surgery, if possible.

* Avoid blowing the nose a week after the procedure. If there is crusting, nasal congestion, or continued mild bleeding after the first day, you can use the over the counter nasal saline spray 2 puffs, twice a day as needed. Old blood clots will appear dark red or black and is not unusual as the clot dissolves.

* For significant bruising or swelling around the eyes, a cool ice pack can be soothing a few times the day of and the day after surgery, if the child permits. If possible, sleeping with the head elevated on pillows can minimize swelling the next day.

* If there is a stent in place in the tear duct, it is possible though rare, for the child to rub his/her eye and pull out the stent, which is in the inner corner of the eyelids. Try to avoid eye rubbing as much as possible. If the stent comes out, notify your doctor, but this is not an emergency. Notifying the doctor the following day if this occurs at night is fine.

* Rarely the stent tube can be irritating to the eye. If the eye appears red, you can apply the ointment more regularly, or artificial tear lubricant drops which are over the counter.

* After a few days, bruising or swelling should start subsiding. If there is an increase of swelling along with redness, pain or discharge AFTER the first 48 hours, notify the doctor as this can be an infection after surgery.

* Tearing after tear duct surgery is common due to swelling and can last several weeks after the procedure. Sometimes tearing will persist until the stent is removed.

* If your child has a tear duct stent placed, the timing of stent removal will vary per patient and your doctor will discuss that with you.

* The patient may be given a prescription antibiotic eye ointment to use three times a day for two weeks or as prescribed by your doctor.

* If there is no prescription pain medication, over the counter children's Tylenol is recommended regularly as prescribed on the first day, then as needed on the second day. Usually, children have no discomfort by the following day.

* Sometimes, your doctor will prescribe an antibiotic oral medication if infection is discovered in the tear duct at the time of surgery.

* Post-op Appt with Dr. Amato is: _____