

Orbital Fracture Reconstruction

Introduction

Orbit is an important structure for protecting eye ball and its adjacent soft tissue. Different kinds of orbit trauma may affect the normal function of eye. Patients may have numbness over the periorbital region due to sensory nerve damage or they may have double vision due to extraocular muscle damage, damage of the nerve supplying the extraocular muscle, or entrapment of extraocular muscle or adjacent tissue by the fracture.

According to the nature and severity of the orbit fracture, doctors will either observe or proceed to orbit fracture surgery at a suitable time.

The Procedure

Operation is usually performed under general anaesthesia.

- Surgically relief the entrapped eye muscle or soft tissue from fracture site, with or without placement of implant to cover up the fracture site
- Implant may be plastic or metallic e.g. titanium. Doctors will select the suitable implant according to the patient`s condition.

As clinical condition varies, patients are advised to discuss their concern with the medical staffs and understand the detail of orbital surgery before operation.

Possible Risk and Complication

- Risks and complications of general
- Risks and complications of orbital surgery as below:
 - Scar
 - Lid oedema or haematoma or bruises
 - Persistent or deterioration of squint or double vision
 - Ptosis
 - Orbit haematoma
 - Sunken eye ball due to post-operation fat atrophy
 - Post-operation orbital infection / abscess
 - Decrease or abnormal skin sensation adjacent to orbit
 - If implant is inserted, complications such as infection or extrusion may occur

- Blindness
- Cerebrospinal fluid leakage or intracranial injuries

Due to the diverse nature of orbit surgery, the above risks and complications are not exhaustive. Please discuss your concerns with the doctor or medical staffs before operation.

Before the Procedure

- May need computerized tomography (CT) scan / magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan or other investigations before operation.
- May need assessment or treatment from other disciplines e.g. surgical unit, ear, nose, throat (ENT) unit, plastic unit.
- If taking medications for long term diseases (including Traditional Chinese medicine), especially antiplatelet agent or anticoagulant therapy, doctor must be informed. To prevent uncontrolled bleeding antiplatelet or anticoagulant therapy may have to be stop before operation, according to doctor`s instruction.

After the Procedure

- Take care of your eyes or wound according to medical staff`s instruction.
- Take medication according to doctor`s prescription
- Need regular follow up

Follow Up

- May need CT scan / MRI scan or other investigations after the operation.
- May need follow up or treatment from other disciplines e.g. surgical unit, ENT unit, plastic unit, oncology unit.

Remarks

This is general information only and the list of complications is not exhaustive. Other unforeseen complications may occasionally occur. The actual risks may be different for different patients. During the operation, unpredictable condition may arise, and additional procedures may be performed if necessary. For further information, please contact your doctor.