

## Your Notes

## Will the surgery hurt?

The eye is surrounded by bones; therefore it is much easier to tolerate removal of an eye (as compared to loss of a lung or kidney). If you are young and/or healthy you may want to have your surgery as an outpatient.

*Most insurance companies allow patients to stay in the hospital for at least one night after surgery.*

Since your surgery will be performed under general anesthesia, you will not feel or see anything until you wake up. Dr. Finger always gives extra local anesthesia at the time of surgery. This is how Dr. Finger makes sure you wake up in the recovery room with the least amount of pain possible. Most patients have a headache for a day or two after surgery that goes away with two regular Tylenol every 4 hours.

## When can I get my prosthesis?

Within 2 weeks of surgery you will be sent for a temporary ocular prosthesis (plastic-eye). Besides the swelling and the "black-eye," you will look fairly normal. After a final prosthetic fitting 90% of our patients are happy with the way they look, and 80% say other people can't even tell they are monocular.

Ask us for the book "A Singular View" by Frank Brady to help in your transition. This book was written by an airline pilot who lost one eye. From now on, we suggest that you wear unbreakable glasses to protect your good eye.

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# Enucleation



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## What is enucleation?

- “Enucleation” is what doctors call the surgery to remove an eye.
- It is the only form of treatment that allows Dr. Finger to remove the tumor from your body.
- Unfortunately, patients also lose the vision from that eye.
- With time, most patients are able to do all the things they used to do before losing their eye.

## FAQ's

**Q:** When can I wash my hair and face?

**A:** You should gently clean your lids each day. You may use a clean washcloth or sterile gauze. You should not rub your eyelids or run

the shower into your operated eye for at least 10 days after surgery.

**Q:** What sort of care will my eye need after I go home?

**A:** You will take an antibiotic and steroid eye medication each day for about a month. They will help you heal more safely and quickly. For the first week after surgery, you will tear a lot and the tears may contain a little blood. This is normal. You should gently wash the outside of your eyelid with a warm, clean, soapy washcloth. Don't let matter accumulate to form crust on your eyelids.

**Q:** When can I go back to normal activity?

**A:** You should not lift or strain, or rub your eye, for at least 10 days after surgery. Do not take aspirin or other blood

thinners unless your internist says it is required. The orbit should heal quickly and you should be able to return to school or work within 2-4 weeks after surgery.

**Q:** How often will I need to be checked after enucleation?

**A:** Dr. Finger recommends that you be periodically examined after surgery. This is because there is a small possibility that the tumor will regrow behind the prosthesis. We prefer that you see a qualified eye specialist every 6 months after enucleation. You should also have twice-yearly complete medical checkups with your family doctor, internist, or medical oncologist.