

Dropleess Cataract Surgery Q & A

For decades, whenever we have performed cataract surgery, we have used eye drops before and after cataract surgery to promote healing and reduce the risk of infection. While eye drops in general work quite well, there are often problems associated with the side effects from the medications, as well as difficulties obtaining the drops from the pharmacy and placing them in the eye.

In an effort to make our surgery more convenient for our patients, and also to reduce costs (a complete set of brand name drops costs the patient approximately \$300 per eye), we use a new medication ("TriMoxi"), which is placed inside the eye at the time of surgery. Studies have shown that this medication allows us to eliminate drops after surgery about 95% of the time (unless you are diabetic or have a epiretinal membrane (retinal wrinkle) that requires that you be on a single drop (Prolensa or Diclofenac) before and after surgery). A small number of patients (5%) may have breakthrough inflammation after surgery that requires eye drops to be started.

The advantage of using this medication in surgery is that your postoperative course will be simplified in that there is a 95% chance that you will not have to place prescription eye drops in your eye. This reduces the chance of having side effects on your ocular surface from the drops and makes your postoperative course simpler in that you do not have to deal with the inconvenience and expense of obtaining and placing drops on your eye. There is also some data that implies that the use of this medication lowers your risk of infection compared to eye drops.

As with all medications, however, even TriMoxi has side effects. These include the early presence of floaters which may appear cloud-like, as well as blurred vision (sometimes quite blurry) immediately after surgery. The floaters/cloud can occasionally last for up to a few weeks after surgery. Your eye doctor will examine you on the first day after surgery and let you know if you can continue to go without drops or if he feels that drops will need to be started.

In the unlikely (5%) event that you should experience mild pain, eye redness, light sensitivity, or decreased vision as you heal after surgery, please contact your doctor or our office, and we will arrange to examine you and start you on eye drops for a short course of therapy.