**Day of Surgery Instructions: DALK Cornea Transplant Surgery**

***Activity:***

* Please do not rub your eye.
* Refrain from strenuous activity.
* Do not swim or use a hot tub or a sauna.
* Do not wear eye make-up.

***Shield:***

* Please keep your eye shield on at all times until it is removed by our technicians tomorrow in clinic. Today is the only time you will have to wear your eye shield during the day.

***Eye Drops:***

* Do not take any eye drops until tomorrow unless asked to do otherwise by your doctor.
* Bring your eye drops to clinic if you have any questions about them.
* Ask your doctor if you should resume taking eye drops that you were taking before surgery, such as glaucoma eye drops.

***Other Medications:***

* You may take any over the counter pain reliever for mild pain.
* Resume taking all of your usual medications.

***What to expect:***

* Mild irritation and discomfort are normal.

***Absolutely call the doctor if you experience any of the following:***

* Severe eye pain
* Nausea
* Vomiting
* Severe headache

***The cornea fellow doctor can be reached at 503-413-8202 twenty-four hours a day if you experience any of the above symptoms. Please ask for the “cornea fellow” doctor.***

**Postoperative Day 1 Instructions: DALK Cornea Transplant Surgery**

***Eye Drops:***

* **Ofloxacin** **1 drop 4 times daily until the bottle is empty,** unless otherwise instructed. Refills are not needed.
* **Prednisolone** **1 drop 6 times daily for 1 week,** unless otherwise instructed. Shake well. You have refills.
* **Refresh PM ointment at bedtime,** unless otherwise instructed. You have refills. It is also available over the counter without a prescription.
* *Take eye drops 3-5 minutes apart so that they do not wash each other out. The order of the drops does not matter. Please wash your hands prior to taking the drops. Do not touch the tip of the bottle to your eyelid or any other surface as this may contaminate it. Shake Prednisolone 20 times before using it.*
* *Apply Refresh PM ointment last because the oily consistency can reduce absorption of eye drops. If you have difficulty applying the ointment, try holding the capped tube under warm water or in your hand for a few minutes. This makes the ointment into an oil that is easier to apply. If Refresh PM makes your eyelids crusty in the morning, you can gently wipe your eyelids with a warm, moist towel.*

***Activity:***

* Please wear your eye shield at night for 2 weeks then stop. Secure it with tape, forehead to cheek.
* **Do not rub your eye because this could damage your cornea transplant.**
* Stay out of dusty and dirty environments while your eye is healing.
* Refrain from strenuous activity and try not to bend below the waist for 2 weeks after surgery.
* Do not swim or use a hot tub or a sauna for at least 4 weeks after surgery.
* Shower and wash your face as you normally would, but do not rub your eye.
* Do not wear eye make-up for 2 weeks after surgery.

***What to expect:***

* All eyes are different, but in general you can expect comfort and vision to improve steadily.
* Blurry vision and mild irritation, discomfort, tearing, and redness are normal.
* Stinging with eye drops is normal.
* It is normal for your current pair of glasses or contact lenses to no longer work after you have eye surgery because the surgery changes your prescription. You will be checked for a new prescription between 6-18 months after surgery, or when your eye stabilizes.

***Increasing redness, pain, extreme light sensitivity, and decreasing vision are not normal. If any of these symptoms occur, call the doctor on-call at 503-413-8202.*Postoperative Week 1 Instructions: DALK Cornea Transplant Surgery**

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* ***3 months after surgery, you will begin to reduce your Prednisolone:***
	+ 3 months after surgery – prednisolone 3 times daily
	+ 6 months after surgery – prednisolone 2 times daily
	+ 9 months after surgery – prednisolone 1 time daily
	+ 12 months after surgery – Stop
	+ *You may be tapered off of prednisolone faster than this.*
* *Prednisolone and FML are steroid eye drops that are very important to the health of your cornea transplant. Never stop taking your steroid eye drops without asking your doctor first. Always call the office for a refill if you need one, but do not worry about missing one or two days of the medication. Shake Prednisolone and FML 20 times before using them.*
* *Apply Refresh PM ointment last because the oily consistency can reduce absorption of eye drops. If you have difficulty applying the ointment, try holding the capped tube under warm water or in your hand for a few minutes. This makes the ointment into an oil that is easier to apply. If Refresh PM makes your eyelids crusty in the morning, you can gently wipe your eyelids with a warm, moist towel.*

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