

Patient information

Local Anaesthetic

What is local anaesthesia?

A local anaesthetic numbs a small part of your body – at Bahamas Vision Centre, your eye. It is used when the nerves can easily be reached either by drops or injections. For all types of local anaesthesia, you stay conscious during the operation and will be aware of bright light or moving shapes. You might feel the surgeon touching your eye, or pressure on your eye, but you should not feel anything sharp or painful. If you do feel pain, you must inform the surgeon. They can easily top up the local anaesthetic in almost all circumstances.

What is topical anaesthesia?

This is achieved by administering numbing drops to anaesthetise your eye. This type of anaesthetic is suitable for some simple operations, but not all.

What is a local anaesthetic block?

This could either be a sub-tenons block or a peribulbar block. With a sub-tenons block, we use numbing drops to anaesthetise the front of your eye before putting local anaesthetic behind your eye (where the nerves that supply sensation to the whole eyeball are located). This will freeze your eye and help keep it still for the surgery. The effects of the local anaesthetic will last for several hours.

A peribulbar block is done much less frequently. Your anaesthetist will discuss this block in further detail if it is required.

What are the complications of anaesthesia?

All procedures have associated risks. Sight and life-threatening complications can occur, but are extremely rare. You can discuss any specific concerns you may have with your surgeon or anaesthetist.

1. Infection: We take precautions to stop infection by using antiseptic solution.
2. Bleeding: You might have a bruise on or behind your eye. The risk of bruising is higher if you are taking blood-thinning tablets (such as warfarin, rivaroxaban, aspirin or clopidogrel). Bruising is harmless and goes away in a few days.