
Our vision: Is for Australians to be free of glaucoma blindness

Hydrus

The Hydrus is a curved flexible stent measuring 8mm in length (approximately the size of an eyelash). It is made of a super-elastic alloy of nickel and titanium, the same material used to make stents for use in the heart.

How does it work?

Once inserted, it acts like a scaffold to widen and dilate the natural drainage channel inside the eye. It contains a small inlet to allow fluid inside the eye to enter the stent.

Who is it suitable for?

It is suitable for people with mild-to-moderate open-angle glaucoma who may require additional treatment to glaucoma eye drops and laser and/or in whom eye drops are not tolerated.

What are the benefits?

Recovery is rapid and patients may experience a modest reduction in eye pressure and/or need for glaucoma medication. The Hydrus cannot be seen or felt. It is safe to have an MRI scan in most machines following the Hydrus procedure.

Before the procedure

Your doctor will provide you with specific instructions prior to the operation. You will usually be asked to continue with all your usual medications including your glaucoma eye drops even on the day of surgery.

You will likely have a period of fasting immediately before the surgery but again your doctor will provide you with the specific details.

During the procedure

Your eye will be anaesthetised with a local anaesthetic injection. Hydrus is quick to insert and usually only takes minutes to complete. The device is delivered through a very small incision (2 mm) in the front of the eye and implanted directly into Schlemm's canal.

If combined with cataract surgery, your surgeon may choose to implant the stents before or after cataract surgery.

After the procedure

The recovery from surgery is rapid and typically no longer than cataract surgery alone. Your surgeon will prescribe some antibiotics and anti-inflammatory eye drops.

Are there any alternatives?

The alternative treatment options are glaucoma eye drops, laser therapy, one of the other MIGS devices, or conventional glaucoma surgery. Your doctor will be able to explain each of these and whether they are suitable for you.

