**Strabismus Surgery Infection Prophylaxis**

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**INTRODUCTION:**
Post operative infection following strabismus surgery is a rare but potentially visually devastating disorder. Endophthalmitis, with an estimated incidence of 1:3500⁴, may result in blindness or loss of the eye. Periocular infection, either cellulitis or subconjunctival abscess, is slightly more common with a reported incidence of 1:1000-1:1900¹-³. The uncommon occurrence of post-operative infections after strabismus surgery has made it difficult to study. Scant information regarding timing of the first postoperative visit after strabismus surgery exists in the literature. This study was undertaken to characterize the practice patterns of pediatric ophthalmologists regarding their use of infection prophylaxis and timing of first postoperative visit after strabismus surgery.

**METHODS:**
A ten question multiple choice, close-ended questionnaire was emailed to North American members of the American Academy of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus regarding infection prophylaxis before, during, and after surgery. Fisher’s exact test was used to determine if prophylactic measures were associated with a surgeon reporting a prior episode of post-operative cellulitis or endophthalmitis.

**RESULTS:**
Three hundred eighty surveys were included for data analysis. The majority use 5% betadine solution during surgical preparation (48%), instill antibiotics at the conclusion of surgery (90%), and prescribe topical antibiotics with steroid post-operatively (88%), instill antibiotics at the end of surgery, and prescribe topical antibiotics at the conclusion of surgery. The uncommon occurrence of post-operative infections after strabismus surgery has made it difficult to study. Scant information regarding timing of the first postoperative visit after strabismus surgery exists in the literature. This study was undertaken to characterize the practice patterns of pediatric ophthalmologists regarding their use of infection prophylaxis and timing of first postoperative visit after strabismus surgery.

**CONCLUSIONS:**
Postoperative infection following strabismus surgery is uncommon with approximately 6% of responders to this survey reporting endophthalmitis and 29% reporting at least one case of cellulitis.

- A majority of strabismus surgeons responding to this survey:
  - Instill 5% povidone-iodine during surgical preparation
  - Instill topical antibiotics at the conclusion of surgery.
  - Prescribe a course of post-operative topical antibiotics with steroids.

- There is no consensus on timing of first post-operative visit.
- It is possible that previous experience with post-operative infections may lead surgeons to adopt more aggressive prophylaxis measures such as IV antibiotics.

**REFERENCES:**