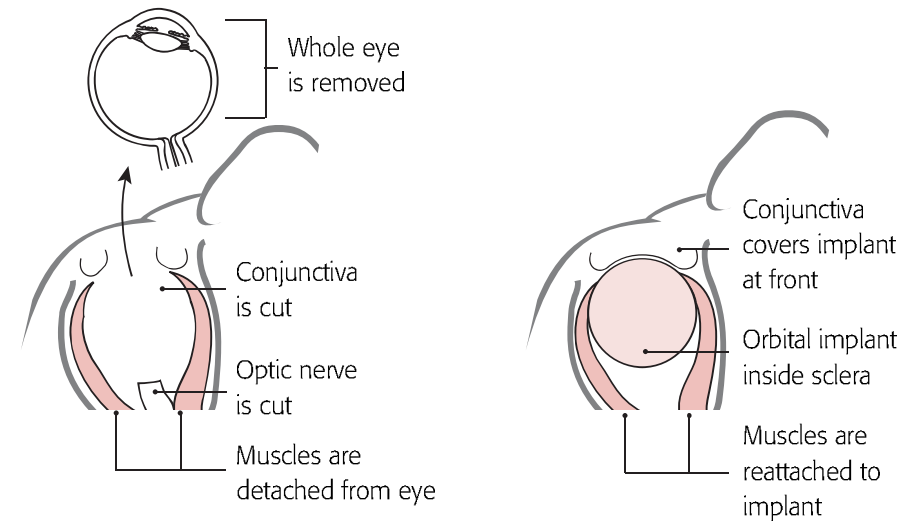


Artificial eye and orbital implant

- Usually, if your eye needs to be removed because of pain or blindness, this is done under general anaesthesia. It may be removed completely (enucleation) or the main contents of your eye removed (evisceration) leaving behind the white outer coating (sclera).
- An orbital implant, which is a sphere made of plastic or coral, is then placed into the space where your eye used to be or inside the sclera. The implant is then covered with the conjunctiva, the thin transparent layer that covers the white of your eye.
- Because the orbital implant has the eye muscles around it, and lies underneath the conjunctiva and sometimes within the sclera, it cannot be removed. The artificial eye lies over the orbital implant and the conjunctiva, and is held in place by the inner surface of the eyelids. It should be removed for cleaning from time to time, especially if the eye socket gets sticky. Clean your artificial eye with unperfumed soap and water, and then rinse it under a cold tap. If you do not feel like touching it, in the UK the artificial eye service will review you and clean it for you.
- Your eye muscles are attached to the orbital implant so that it can move, together with the artificial eye, when the healthy eye moves.

Enucleation



Evisceration

