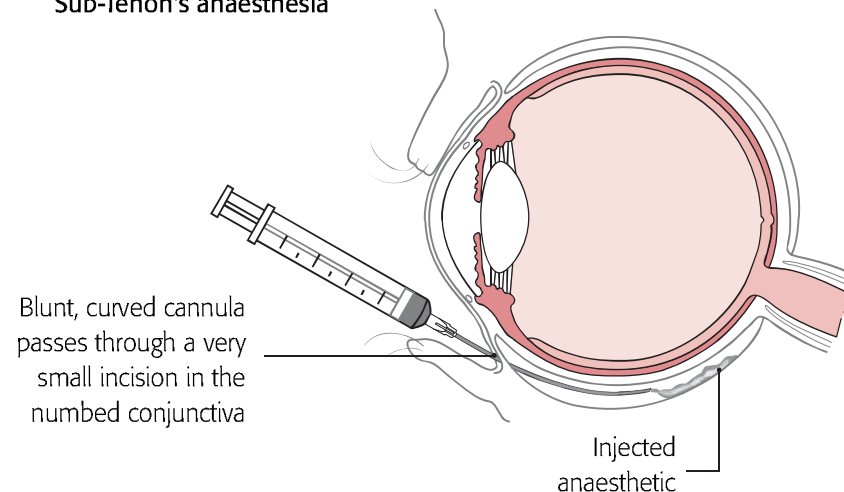


## Local anaesthesia for eye surgery

- Most eye operations are done under local anaesthesia, by injection or with eye drops only. You will not need to change your clothes before surgery. You can usually leave hospital soon after surgery.
- Anaesthetic drops are put into your eye to numb the surface (conjunctiva). If you are anxious before a local anaesthetic injection, you may first be given a sedative by tablet or by injection into a vein in your arm to help to relax you.
- For most operations, a blunt needle technique called sub-Tenon's anaesthesia is used. A very small incision is made in the numbed conjunctiva, and a blunt curved cannula is passed into the space between it and the globe, where anaesthetic is injected. You may feel a mild burning or stinging sensation, or nothing at all.
- Immediately before the operation, a clip that looks like a clothes-peg may be put on one of your fingers to measure the amount of oxygen in your blood during the operation.
- Your face will be covered by a sterile drape, stuck to the skin around the eye but held off your face with a frame. Fresh air will be blown onto your face. This may be a little claustrophobic, so talk to your surgeon if you suffer from severe claustrophobia.
- Sometimes a nurse may hold your hand during the operation. If you want to talk to the surgeon, or feel you want to cough or sneeze, you should squeeze the nurse's hand first. Do not talk to the surgeon without warning because speaking will move your face and eye.

Sub-Tenon's anaesthesia



During the operation

