

## Amy's Eye Surgery Adventure with Flat James

Amy has a wandering left eye but we like to call it her “travelling eye” just like Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw's book 'My Travellin' Eye'. Amy's eyes have taken her on many adventures but lately they were not working very well together and Amy's vision was getting worse. Her ophthalmologist (eye doctor) Dr Lionel Kowal told her that she needed surgery to help her eyes see better. Flat James thought he'd come along too and join Amy for her eye surgery adventure.



Here is Amy with Flat James and Dr. Lionel Kowal in his office

Amy was scared of having surgery because it was something she had never experienced before and she couldn't imagine what it was like. We decided to visit the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear hospital the day before surgery to check it out and it helped Amy to have a mental picture of where she was going to be. It was also very reassuring to know that her mum would be with her the whole time.



The day before the operation Amy had a pre-op appointment so that accurate measurements could be taken.



Here is Amy with Flat James and Roberto Pieri (the Orthoptist) doing tests to measure her eyes and vision

Amy was not allowed to eat or drink anything for at least 6 hours before surgery. So she ate heaps for dinner and a snack before bedtime.



On the day of surgery we arrived at the hospital and waited to be called. Amy played on her iPod to pass the time and to help her stay calm. Flat James just danced.



Once we were called the nurse placed tags around Amy's wrists, weighed her and took her temperature to check that she was healthy and ready for surgery. The anaesthetist (the person who helps you go to sleep) was very nice. He gave Amy the choice of how to fall asleep. She could choose between using a needle (with amazing Angel Cream so that you don't feel the needle) or the mask that makes you sleepy as you breathe in. Amy chose the needle at first and then changed her mind at the last minute and went for the mask instead.



This is Amy getting ready to go to sleep for surgery. Flat James on the other hand continued dancing and had to be escorted out of the room so that Amy could go to sleep!



Amy's mum was allowed to stay with her the whole time until she fell asleep and they got to wear matching gown and hats, which seems to be the fashion in the operating theatre because everyone wears it. We saw a nurse with a red cap and wondered where she got hers from.



This is Amy soon after waking up from surgery. The operated eye was a bit sore and felt a bit rough but Amy said that it wasn't as bad as having real sand in your eyes. She got to have an icy pole any time she wanted whilst she was in recovery. Flat James wanted some too but only surgery patients were allowed to have icy poles.



Day 2 after surgery and Amy at home resting on the couch with Flat James who just can't seem to stop dancing.



Amy's eye still felt a bit sore. Frozen peas in a clean mini zip lock bag felt really nice.



Day 3 after surgery and Amy is able to open her eye a bit more



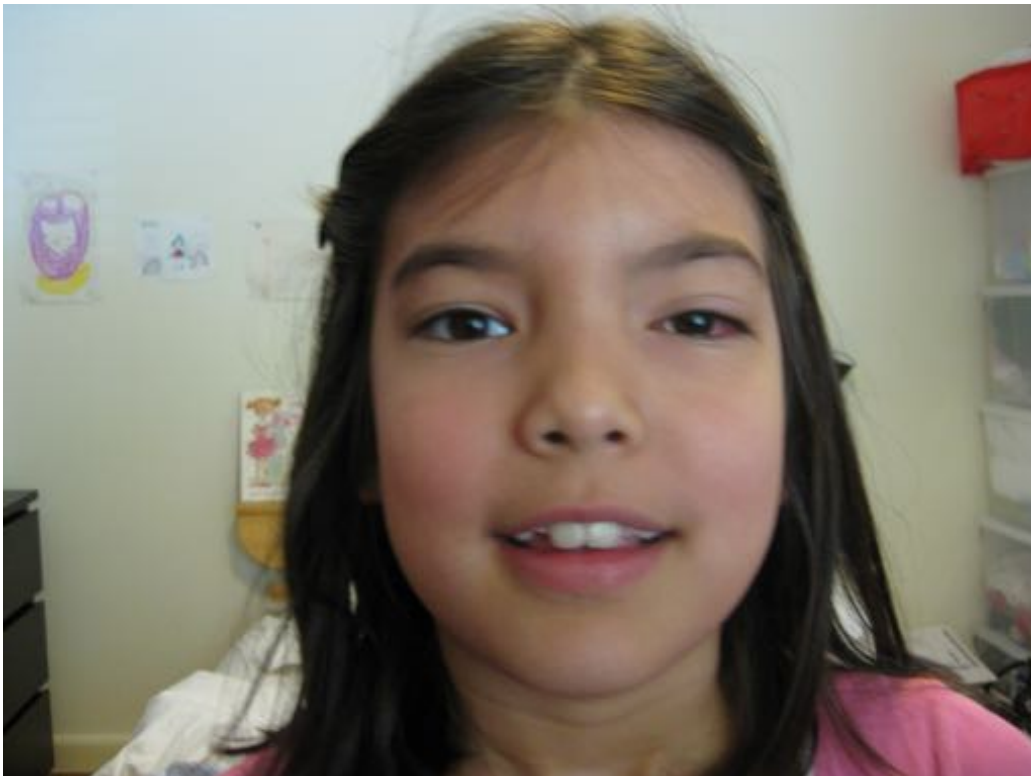
Day 4 after surgery. Amy's eye is getting better and she can go about doing what she usually does (except go swimming or anything that means getting her eyes wet). Amy enjoyed having pyjama days so much that she decided to continue even when she didn't need to!



Later that afternoon Amy had fun on the animal ride at a local fete nearby



Day 6 after surgery and Amy still needs to clean her eyes in the morning with clean make-up remover pads soaked in fresh saline so that her eyelids do not stick together.



Day 7 after surgery and Amy's eyes are still a little red but Amy thinks it's cool that she can see more clearly now with her left eye than she did before surgery. The vision to her left eye used to be dim but now it is much brighter.

Flat James had to leave because his time with Amy had come to an end. We want to thank him for his support and we wish him another great adventure with his new buddy wherever he is.



About 4 weeks after surgery Amy started to notice that things looked "fatter" and more "poppy" but was not used to it. We encouraged her to make things "pop" whenever she could and she now calls her new 3D vision "Poppy Vision". Amy has also started to notice the finer details in things that she never noticed before. Her 3D vision still comes and goes (especially when she is tired) so we are doing Vision Therapy exercises to help strengthen it.

8 weeks after surgery we decided to test out Amy's new "Popping Vision". She loved it! She was able to see things jumping out at her and she saw depth where it used to be flat. She was able to maintain 3D vision for most of the movie but got tired towards the end and reverted back to "Flatty Vision"



This is Amy 11 weeks after surgery and her left eye has given up its jet-setting days and has decided to stay and work together with her right eye but every now and again it goes for a little holiday but that's OK.

We just want to say a big heartfelt THANK YOU to Dr Lionel Kowal and everyone involved for giving Amy her "Poppy Vision". It has helped tremendously with her confidence and the way she perceives the world around her.