

prosthesis remains wet. To reinsert the prosthesis, the lids are separated; and with the prosthesis held in the correct position (it should be marked to indicate the nasal side), it is pushed up under the upper lid, allowing the lower lid to cover its lower edge.

Safety is a major concern to prevent damage to the unaffected eye. Safety measures should be practiced at all times, and children should avoid rough contact sports or wear protective eyewear.

### **Support the Family**

The diagnosis of retinoblastoma presents some special concerns in addition to those raised by any type of cancer. Families with a history of the disorder may feel guilt for transmitting the defect to their offspring, especially if they knowingly “played the odds” and parented an affected child. Conversely, when parents are aware of the probability and have an affected child, early treatment results in such favorable outcomes that parental adjustment may be rapid. In families with no history of retinoblastoma, the diagnosis is a shock, frequently complicated by guilt for not having discovered it sooner. Because parents frequently are the first to observe the cat's eye reflex, they may be angry at themselves or others, especially professionals, for delaying a more thorough examination. Consider each of these variables while offering supportive care to the family.

Other concerns also relate to the hereditary aspects of the disease. Of great importance to parents is the risk of retinoblastoma in their subsequent offspring and in the offspring of the surviving affected child. With improving prognoses for these children, genetic counseling to prevent transmission of the disease is assuming greater importance. Encourage these families to seek regular follow-up care for the affected child to detect secondary tumors, and all subsequent offspring of unaffected parents and survivors should undergo regular ophthalmoscopy to detect retinoblastoma at its earliest stage.

### **Germ Cell Tumors**

Germ cell tumors account for about 2% of all tumors in children under the age of 15 years but account for 14% of all tumors in children 15 to 19 years of age ([Frazier, Olson, Schneider, et al, 2016](#)). Teratoma is the most common subtype of germ cell tumors in