

Patient information

Entropion

St. Paul's Eye Department

Your Consultant / Doctor has advised you to have surgery to correct your Entropion.

What is Entropion?

This is a condition in which the eyelid turns inward, causing the eyelashes to touch the eye. Patients may experience irritation, redness, watering and in some cases disturbance of the surface of the eye.

This condition is usually due to ageing with stretching of the muscles and tendons of the eyelid. It may also be due to scarring of the lid. The lower lid is most often affected but the upper lid may occasionally be involved.

What are the benefits of surgery?

Surgery is intended to turn your eyelid back into its normal position.

Possible risks associated with operations on the eyelids:

These are general risks. Each particular type of eyelid operation may have additional risks.

Bruising and swelling is common following a lid operation and may last for a couple of weeks.

Generally, you should experience only mild pain or discomfort following the surgical treatment of eyelid problems.

Infection may occur with all types of eyelid surgery, even though preventative measures are undertaken. A scar will form along the line of incision. Some individuals tend to scar more than others and it is difficult to predict the degree of scarring but it is usually not significant.

There may be discolouration of the skin, for example, loss of pigment adjacent to the line of the incision. Inclusion cysts (trapped surface cells in the incision) may form, appearing as whitish small lumps along the line of the incision.

It may also not be possible to correct the abnormality, or the abnormality may recur, requiring further surgery. Following any lid procedure, there may be a local reduction in sensation at the site of the eyelid incision.

Are there any alternative treatments available?

There are currently no alternative treatments.

What will happen if I don't have any treatment?

Exposure can lead to corneal damage; there can also be excessive watering of the eye.

Will I be given an anaesthetic?

You will be given a local anaesthetic. Local anaesthesia is drug-induced numbness. Anaesthetic drops are first placed into your eye followed by the injection of an anaesthetic solution into your eyelid; both of these may sting for a short period of time. Although uncommon, unpredictable reactions may occur following injection of an anaesthetic solution. The solution may be unintentionally injected into a blood vessel leading to additional unpredictable reactions.

The operation

- An incision is made in the eyelid and the tissues of the eyelid are tightened, turning the eyelid back to its normal position.
 Sutures will be placed in the skin.
- At the end of the procedure skin stitches are often inserted, these are usually removed six to ten days after the procedure. You will be given an appointment for this to be performed in the outpatient clinic.
- Following the operation, you may be asked to apply an ointment to your eye for approximately seven days following the procedure. This will be supplied and discussed with you by the nursing staff on the Day Ward.
- To apply the ointment, pull down your lower eyelid and squeeze a thin strand of about one centimetre into the gap between your eyelid and eye. The ointment may cause some blurring of the vision during use.
- Tell the doctor if you are taking aspirin or warfarin. You may be asked to discontinue your medication for a few days before the operation. It can be usually be restarted the day after the operation.

Feedback

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future.

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Further information

St Paul's Eye Emergency Department:

Tel: 0151 706 3949

Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 3949

Theatre Admissions Unit

Tel: 0151 706 2492 or 2733 reception

Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 3944

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