

Information for Patients

Everting Sutures for Entropion

The word entropion is used to describe the inward turning of the lower eyelid and lashes towards the eye. This causes the skin of the eyelid and eyelashes to rub against the cornea, the 'window' of your eye and the conjunctiva, the membrane that protects the eye.

This rubbing can lead to excess watering of the eye, because of soreness and this, in turn, leads to crusting of the eyelid, discharge, a feeling that something is in the eye, irritation of the cornea and impaired vision.

Entropion is usually caused by relaxation of the eyelid muscles as a result of ageing. Your doctor has decided that you require everting sutures to remedy your entropion. This means that 2 or 3 stitches are to be placed in your lower eyelid to return it to a normal position and prevent any further damage to your eye.

This procedure is performed under local anaesthetic as an out-patient treatment, so that you can return home shortly after the procedure has been completed. A nurse practitioner who is specially trained to successfully put in everting sutures will carry out the procedure.

There are some small risks associated with everting sutures and these include:

- Bruising from the local anaesthetic injection
- Scarring of the eyelid
- Infection
- Over correction
- Recurrence of the entropion

These will be discussed with you before the procedure.

Afterwards your eyelids might appear swollen, red or bruised. This is normal and can last for 7 -10 days. Antibiotic ointment will be prescribed for you to use 4 times a day for 1 week; this can make your vision blurred for about 5 minutes.

Occasionally, patients can be intolerant to the antibiotic ointment; this can cause itching, redness and swelling. If you have any of these symptoms, please contact us on the number below so that a different ointment can be prescribed. If you know that you are intolerant to any antibiotic or cream, please tell the nurse treating you.

For 1 week after you have had the everting sutures we recommend that you clean your eye with cooled boiled water and clean cotton wool twice a day.

You will be asked to return to see the nurse practitioner; this will be arranged with you before you leave. Your stitches are not normally removed and are left until they fall out which is usually at 2-3 weeks but do sometimes have to be removed in the out-patient clinic.

If you are worried or wish to ask any questions about this information, please contact the Oculoplastic nurse practitioner via the hospital switchboard on: (0161) 276 1234 and ask the operator to bleep 5235 or 5605 Monday–Friday 9.00 am - 5.00 pm.

If you require emergency treatment, you can contact the Emergency Eye Department which is open from 8.00am to 8.00pm every day. Outside of these hours please contact Ward 55 open 24 hours every day. These departments can be contacted via the hospital switchboard on (0161) 276 1234 asking to be put through to the Emergency Eye Department or the ward.