

Information for Patients

Treatment for Entropion

The word entropion is used to describe the inward turning of the lower eyelid and eyelashes towards the eye. This causes the skin of the eyelid and eyelashes to rub against the cornea, the clear '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 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 aging. There are different surgical approaches to correcting entropion. A very simple method is to use 'everting sutures'. This means that two or three stitches are placed in your lower eyelid to return your eyelid to a normal position, and prevent any further damage to your eye.

This procedure is performed under local anaesthetic a day case, so that you can return home shortly after the procedure has been completed. A Nurse Practitioner who is specially trained to put in everting sutures will carry out the procedure.

There are some small risks associated with everting sutures, and these include bruising from the injection, scarring of the eyelid, infection, over correction, and recurrence of the entropion.

Alternatively, it may be necessary to perform a longer procedure, which will reposition your lower eyelid in a more normal position. This is called Inferior Retractor Re-Insertion (IRR).

The lower eyelid may also need to be tightened at the same time as the procedures outlined above. This is called a lateral Tarsal Strip (LTS). As the lower eyelid becomes slackened in older people it may be necessary to tighten it in combination with readjusting the lower eyelid muscle. Therefore, correction of a lower eyelid entropion can involve two procedures. Total surgical time is approximately 45 minutes for the procedure. This is usually carried out under local anaesthetic with sedation. This will be discussed with you in more detail by the team before your operation.

If you have a dressing covering your eye on discharge the nurse will inform you when it needs to be removed. Please do not remove the dressing earlier than advised and keep the dressing dry whilst it is in place.

The medical team caring for you will suggest the procedure that is most suitable for you. Everting sutures may be used in the short term and for some patients this may mean that they have no need for further treatment, whilst other patients may require additional surgery as discussed in the leaflet.

Afterwards your eyelids may appear swollen, red or bruised. This is normal. Antibiotic ointment will be prescribed for you and the nurse will advise you how often this should be used following your operation. This can make your vision blurred for about 5 minutes. Occasionally patients may be intolerant of the ointment; this can cause itching, redness and swelling. If you know that you are intolerant of any antibiotic or cream, please tell the nurse treating you. If you have any of these symptoms please contact us on the number below so that a different ointment may be prescribed.

If you are worried or wish to ask any questions about this information, please contact the Oculoplastic specialist nurse on (0161) 276 5608.

To speak to Ward 55 staff please contact the main hospital switchboard on: (0161) 276 1234, available 24 hours a day.