

Ectropion – or an eyelid that turns out

What is an ectropion?

Ectropion of the lower eyelid is sagging and outward turning of the eyelid margin and eyelashes away from the eye. This can lead to excess tearing, crusting of the eyelid, mucous discharge, irritation of the eye and redness of the eyelid. The red lid margin can lead to cosmetic issues.

What are the causes of ectropion?

Most cases of ectropion are due to simple laxity of the eyelid as a result of ageing. In some cases scarring of the eyelid skin, caused by chemical or thermal burns, trauma, or mechanical effect from skin cancers, or previous eyelid surgery, can result in the eyelid turning outwards, away from the eye.

How is this condition managed?

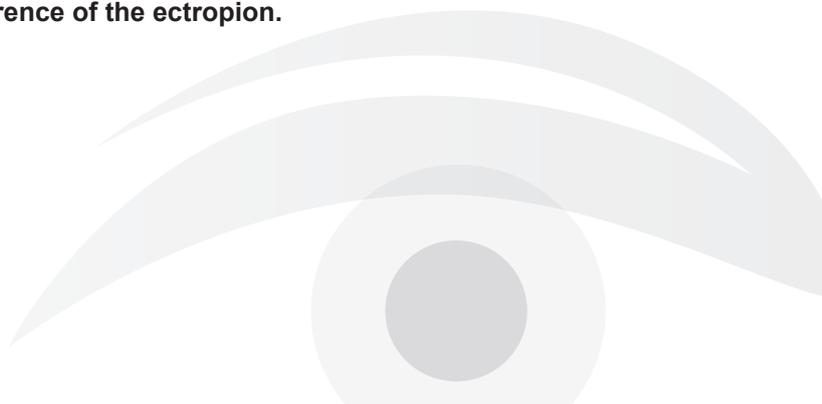
Ectropion symptoms can occasionally be relieved temporarily with ointment, but should generally be repaired surgically. The aim of surgery is to reduce the symptoms of tearing, crusting, discharge, irritation and redness of the eyelid.

What types of surgery are there for ectropion?

Ectropion surgery is done by an oculoplastic surgeon, under local anaesthesia. In most cases the oculoplastic surgeon will tighten the eyelid and its attachments to put the eyelid back in the normal anatomical position. This may require an overnight eye pad, followed by installation of antibiotic drops, or ointment, into the eye for one to three weeks. This is not a painful operation and you can return to work, or normal activities, within about four days. Whilst the eyelid is healing, the eye may feel a little gritty and ache at the corner, but after it has healed the eye will feel comfortable and there will no longer be symptoms of tearing, crusting, mucous discharge, irritation or redness. Sometimes when the ectropion occurs as a result of skin shortage, a skin graft is required. This may be taken from the upper lid, in front of the ear or behind the ear. The process of skin grafting is a little more involved and time consuming. Your surgeon will explain whether you require a skin graft.

What are the risks of side effects of ectropion surgery?

- Bruising of eyelid.
- Bruising of eye.
- Infection of the eyelid or eye.
- Recurrence or over-correction of the eyelid position, requiring further operation.
- Allergic reaction to the local anaesthetic or antibiotics drop or ointment.
- Failure of the skin graft to take and recurrence of the ectropion.



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What are the benefits of eyelid surgery?

- Relief of symptoms, particularly watering and irritation.
- Correction of anatomical position of eyelid, with restoration of normal appearance of the eyelid.
- Reduction of risk of eye infection and exposure.
- Scarring – this is rare in the eyelids as the skin heals so well in this area. Sometimes there can be a discernable scar in the first several months, but this generally disappears over time. Please inform your surgeon if you scar abnormally.

Consent

I agree that this constitutes full disclosure, and that it supersedes any previous verbal or written disclosures. I certify that I have read, and fully understand the above paragraphs, and that I have had a sufficient opportunity for discussion, and to ask questions. I consent to this procedure. Where there may be repeats of the same treatment, this consent applies until I inform the Doctor otherwise.

Patient Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Patient Name: (Print) _____

Doctor Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Doctor Name: (Print) _____

