

Ophthalmology department

Ectropion (turning out of the lower eyelid) and Entropion (turning in of the lower eyelid)

Information for patients, relatives and carers

Introduction

This leaflet has been designed to give you information about **ectropion** and **entropion** and answer some of the questions that you or those who care for you may have. It is not meant to replace the discussion between you and your medical team but aims to help you understand more about what is discussed. If you have any questions about the information below, please contact us.

What is ectropion and entropion?

Ectropion is a condition that affects the lower eyelid, causing it to turn outwards. If the lower eyelid is not resting comfortably on the eye, the tears cannot flow into the tear duct, resulting in your eye watering and being sore. The most common cause of ectropion is when the muscles of the eyelid become less elastic due to ageing. However, ectropion may also occur if you have facial palsy (paralysis) or scarring of the eyelids.

Entropion is a condition where the eyelid rolls inwards and the eyelashes rub against the front surface of the eye. This causes the eye to become red, sore and watery. It also increases risk of infection in the clear front window of the eye (cornea), if left untreated this can cause scarring and long-term visual loss. In the UK the most common cause is when the muscles of the lower eyelid become laxer with age. It can also occur as a result of scarring from infection or other injuries.

What treatment is there?

Non-surgical treatments for ectropion can include using lubricating drops when the eye feels gritty and sore.

Non-surgical treatments for entropion can include placing medical tape on the lower eyelid to turn the lashes away from the surface of the eye. Botulinum toxin injections can be used in the lower lid to turn it out. These are not permanent and wear off after a few months.

Permanent treatment of both ectropion and entropion involves a minor operation to turn the lid towards to its normal position. The operation usually takes around 30-45 minutes and is

performed as a day case, so you will not have to stay in hospital overnight. The procedure is normally done under a local anaesthetic injection to freeze the eyelid which means you will be awake but will not be able to feel anything. It is also possible to have this with a sedating medicine given into a vein to relax you. The operation is rarely performed whilst asleep under general anaesthetic.

What are the risks of surgery?

The operation is a low risk procedure. It is normal for the eyelid to be bruised and swollen for 1-2 weeks after the operation. The eye can occasionally feel gritty and topical lubricating drops can help with this. Any scarring is kept to a minimum and the appearance of any scar can be improved with massage. Rare complications include recurrence of the ectropion or ectropion requiring repeat surgery and infection.

What is the follow up care?

After the operation there will be a pad on the eye that can be removed the following day. The eye can then be cleaned, you will be instructed how to do this by the nursing team after the operation. You may be prescribed drops to put in the eye to keep it comfortable and reduce the chance of an infection. It is possible to resume light work, such as office work, one week after surgery but it is advisable to wait longer for more vigorous work. You will be seen 2 weeks after the surgery and if any sutures need to be removed they will be removed at this visit.

Who can I contact for more information?

If you have questions before your appointment, please contact the pre-assessment nurse on **020 3312 3230/3240** at Western Eye Hospital or **020 3311 0137** at Charing Cross Hospital between 09.00 and 17.00, Monday to Friday.

If your eye becomes red or painful, or your vision gets worse, please contact:

Western Eye Hospital emergency department:

020 3312 3245

Western Eye Hospital eye clinic:

020 3312 3236

Alex Cross ward at the Western Eye Hospital:

020 3312 3227

Charing Cross Hospital eye clinic:

020 3311 0137 or 020 3311 1126

Charing Cross Hospital –Riverside Daycare unit:

020 3311 1460

If you have not received a post-surgery appointment, please contact **020 3312 3275 option 2**

How do I make a comment about my visit?

We aim to provide the best possible service and staff will be happy to answer any of the questions you may have. If you have any **suggestions** or **comments** about your visit, please either speak to a member of staff or contact the patient advice and liaison service (**PALS**) on **020 3313 0088** (Charing Cross, Hammersmith and Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea hospitals), or **020 3312 7777** (St Mary's and Western Eye hospitals). You can also email PALS at imperial.pals@nhs.net The PALS team will listen to your concerns, suggestions or queries and is often able to help solve problems on your behalf.

Alternatively, you may wish to complain by contacting our complaints department:

Complaints department, fourth floor, Salton House, St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street
London W2 1NY

Email: ICHC-tr.Complaints@nhs.net

Telephone: **020 3312 1337 / 1349**

Alternative formats

This leaflet can be provided on request in large print or easy read, as a sound recording, in Braille or in alternative languages. Please email the communications team:
imperial.communications@nhs.net

Wi-fi

Wi-fi is available at our Trust. For more information visit our website: www.imperial.nhs.uk

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