

Ophthalmology Department

Ectropion

What is an Ectropion?

Ectropion is the medical term used to describe sagging and outward turning of the lower eyelid and eyelashes. This can lead to excessive watering, crusting of the eyelid, mucous discharge and irritation of the eye.

What are the causes for this condition?

Most cases of ectropion are due to relaxation of the tissues of the eyelid as a result of ageing. Some cases result from scarring of the eyelid caused by chemical and thermal burns, trauma, skin cancers, or previous eyelid surgery.

How is this condition managed?

Ectropion should be repaired surgically to prevent damage to the cornea, caused by infection and scarring. Before surgery, the eye can be protected by using lubricating drops and ointment.

The surgery to repair ectropion is usually performed under local anaesthesia (an injection to numb the skin) with or without sedation as a day case. In most cases, your doctor will tighten the eyelid. You may have a patch overnight and then will commonly use an antibiotic drop or ointment for about two weeks. After your eyelids heal, your eye will feel comfortable, reducing the risk of infection and loss of vision. You will have stitches that might have to be removed. In patients with sun damaged or very tight skin, skin grafting may be necessary along with tightening of the lower lid.



Patient Information

Are there any risks or side effects of the operation?

- There may be bruising around the eye.
- There is a small risk of infection of the lid or eye.
- There is a possibility of the condition returning or over correction of the eyelid which may require a further operation.
- You may end up with a scar.

What are the benefits?

- Relief of symptoms.
- Reduction of risk of eye infection.

The appearance of the eyelid returning to normal.

Further Information

For further information contact the Oculoplastics Nurse Specialist on Telephone Number 024 7696 6533. Alternatively you may contact your consultant's secretary on the numbers below:

Mr H. Ahluwalia's secretary: 024 7696 6506

Mrs. P Mehta's secretary: 024 7696 6508

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please contact the Department where you had your treatment and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

To give feedback on this leaflet please email feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk

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Emergency eye appointments: New booking system

If you have an urgent eye problem, you can now book an on-the-day telephone consultation via the Eye Emergency Referral Service (EERS).



Scan the QR code or visit www.uhcw.nhs.uk and search Eye Emergency Referral Service. You can book a telephone consultation via this link.

You will be spoken to by an expert clinician who will give you specialist advice on the next steps to take.

Please provide a phone number which you can be contacted on for the consultation. Please also be aware that you will be phoned as close to the allotted time as possible, although at busy times unfortunately there may be a delay.

In the event that you feel you cannot wait to speak to someone or do not have online access then you may call 0247 696 4800.

This phone line is open 9am - 1pm; 1.30pm - 5pm (Monday - Friday, excluding bank holidays) and 9am - 12pm (Saturday).

Please only attend the Eye Outpatient department if you have had a telephone consultation in advance and have been advised to attend.

In the event of an eye emergency out of hours, please attend the Minor Injuries Unit/Emergency Department.