

Oxford Eye Hospital

Treatment for Ectropion

Information for patients



What is ectropion?

This is a condition that commonly affects the lower eyelid, causing it to droop and turn outwards. It affects both eyes and causes them to water constantly.

What are the symptoms of an ectropion?

- Tear ducts drain tears away from the surface of the eye to the back of the nose. When the eyelid turns outwards, the tears can't drain away properly, causing the eyes to become watery.
- The exposed inner eyelid may also become dry and sore.

What causes ectropion?

- Older people are most commonly affected by ectropion because the muscles of the eyelid have become less elastic and weak with age.
- Damage to the skin near the eyes or the eyelids themselves.
- Facial palsy – when the facial muscles become paralysed or weak. This is usually a temporary condition.

What is the treatment for an ectropion?

The usual treatment is a minor operation to turn the lid inwards again to its normal position. The operation is

carried out as a day case procedure under local anaesthetic. The surgeon may use stitches to close the wound.

The eye will normally be padded after the operation to prevent bruising and swelling. Once the pad is removed, usually the next day, you should take care to keep your eyelid clean and free from infection. Wash the eye with water only until the stitches are removed. We may ask you to use antibiotic eye drops or ointment for 7 - 10 days after the procedure.

Risks and side effects

You may still experience some bruising around the operated eye despite the eye being padded. This may be apparent for 7 - 10 days.

Other risks are:

- Infection
- Over-correction of the ectropion (extremely rare)

The surgeon will explain the risks to you in more detail before asking you to sign the consent form.

You may have stitches after this procedure. These may be removed after 7, 10 or 14 days - depending on the type of stitches used. Before you leave the department you will be given an appointment to return to Outpatients for the stitches to be removed.

While you are waiting for your operation:

If appropriate, we will give you a lubricating ointment which you may use to help keep your eyes more comfortable while you are waiting for your operation.

How to contact us

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact
Eye Outpatients on: Tel: 01865 231099

Further information

If you would like further information please look at the
following website:

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Ectropion/Pages/Introduction.aspx?url=Pages/what-is-it.aspx>

If you need an interpreter or need a document
in another language, large print, Braille or audio
version, please call **01865 221473**.

When we receive your call we may transfer you
to an interpreter. This can take some time,
so please be patient.

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