

Any risks?

As with any surgery there is an element of risk, such as:

- Possible infection, your GP can prescribe antibiotics if necessary.
- Pain, you are advised to take what you would normally have for a headache.
- There is a 10% failure rate with this procedure and further surgery may be necessary.

If you have any queries do not hesitate to contact Ward 19 on telephone no. 01270 612079.

Eye Care Centre

Information for Patients about Ectropion

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Information for Patients about Ectropion

This is a condition in which the eyelid is turned outwards so that it fails to be in contact with the surface of the eyeball. The inside of the eyelid is exposed. This causes the tears to pool and the eye to water persistently. Patients may get some chronic infection and soreness. Usually the lower lid is affected.

Some questions and answers

(Q) What causes the lid to turn out?

(A) The tissue which keeps the lid in its normal position becomes weak and relaxed. This can occur with age or due to a nerve weakness (facial palsy). Sometimes the lid can be turned outwards by scar tissue forming after accidents, especially burns

(Q) What can be done for this?

(A) A small operation to shorten and tighten the lid can be performed.

(Q) Can you tell me about the operation?

(A) This is a minor procedure in which a small section is cut from the affected eyelid so that it is pulled back into a normal position. You will be given an appointment for this.

The day of operation and aftercare

The operation is usually carried out in the Day Surgery Unit, or in the Eye Care Centre Treatment Room. The operation is performed under local anaesthetic. This means you will be awake throughout the procedure that can take about $\frac{3}{4}$ hour. Some eye drops will be put on the inside of your eyelid and you will have a small injection into the skin around the affected lid to numb the area. This will only sting a little.

If you experience any pain when you return home you may take whatever you normally take for a headache. It is advisable to bring an escort because you will have a pad applied. We also advise you **not** to drive to this appointment because the pad will result in you only having sight in one eye temporarily.

The pad can be removed usually after 24-48 hours. The area around the stitches may be gently bathed with cooled, boiled water. Avoid touching the stitches.

You may have to apply eye drops and ointment that will prevent infection. You will be given instructions on how to do this and the drops and ointment will be supplied at the time of your departure from the hospital.

The wound is closed with stitches which will be removed some days later at the hospital. There are two types of stitches:

- Black stitches which will be removed at your next appointment
- Light coloured stitches, which may remain until they dissolve.

After the stitches have been removed, continue to use any eye drops or ointment until you come for a follow-up appointment in the Outpatients Department in about two weeks.