

Outward turning of eyelid (ectropion)

Ophthalmology Department

Information for Patients

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What is ectropion?

Ectropion mainly affects the lower eyelid and can happen in one or both eyes. Ectropion happens when the lower eyelid no longer fits snugly against the eyeball and turns outwards away from the eye.

What causes ectropion?

As we get older the skin can become loose. This can cause the lower eyelid to droop downward and turn outwards.

Scars on the skin around the eye and on the eyelid can also cause the eyelid to turn outwards. There are many causes of scarring e.g. injury, burns, chemical splashes and certain skin conditions.

Paralysis of the facial nerve can also result in loss of muscle tone of the lower eyelid, leading to ectropion.

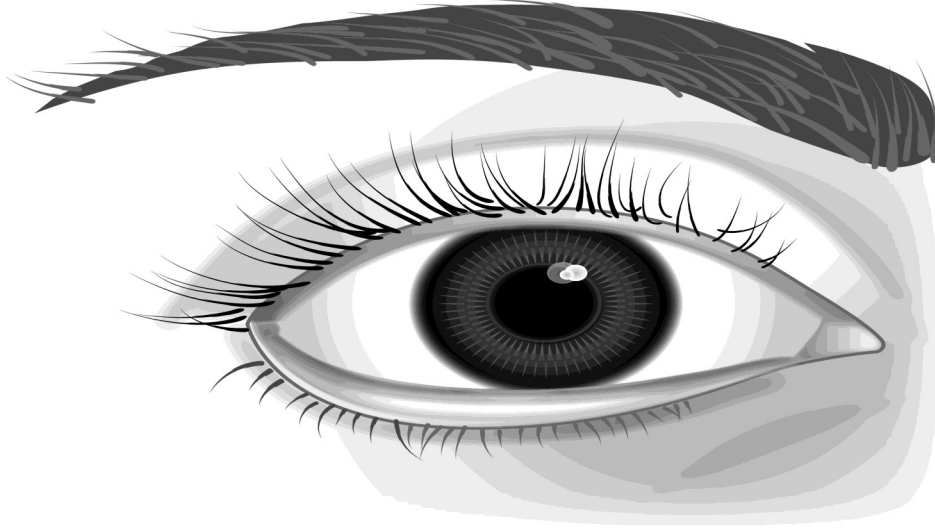
What are the signs and symptoms?

- Excessive tearing
- Dryness of the eye
- Redness
- Sensitivity to wind and light
- Outward turning of the lower eyelid

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Ectropion



How is ectropion treated?

The best way to correct ectropion is with an operation. During the operation the skin around the eyelid is made tighter. This will make the lower eyelid move back to its normal position so it fits snugly against the eyeball.

This operation can be performed in the minor operations room or in ophthalmic theatre, after having an injection of local anaesthetic into your eyelid. If ectropion is caused by scarring, the operation may involve a skin graft to the eyelid which is only done in ophthalmic theatre.

Contact details

If you have any questions please ask us at your appointment, or contact the Oculoplastics Team on 0116 204 7971 - Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm.

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