

Inward turning of eyelid (entropion)

Ophthalmology Department

Information for Patients

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What is entropion?

Entropion mainly affects the lower eyelid and can happen in one or both eyes. Entropion happens when the eyelid turns inwards towards the eye, causing eyelashes to rub against the eyeball.

What causes entropion?

Entropion mostly happens due to ageing when the skin around the eyelid becomes loose.

Sometimes it can be caused by inflammation of the edge of the eyelid.

There are diseases which cause scarring to the inner surface of the eyelid which can pull the eyelid inwards, but these are rare. Management of such diseases can be complex and will be explained by a specialist if it affects you.

What are the signs and symptoms?

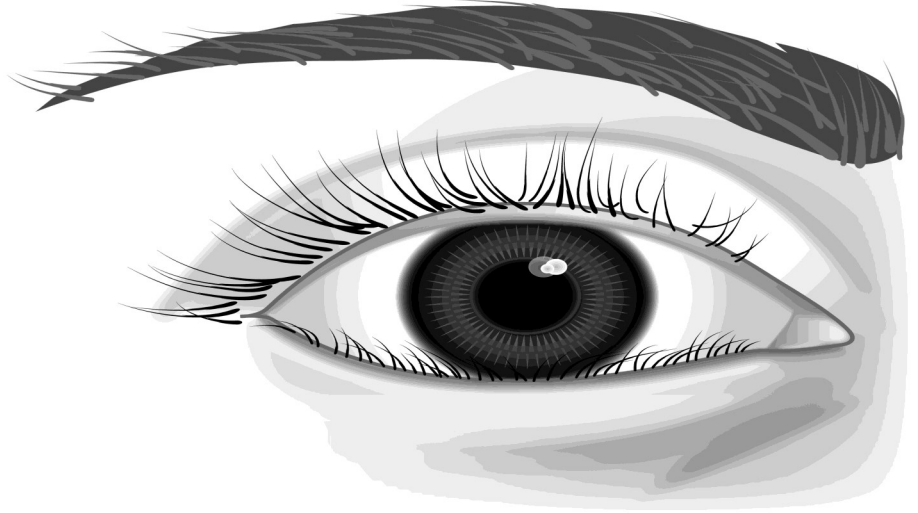
- Irritation or a feeling there is something in your eye.
- Watering and redness of the eye.
- Inward turning of the eyelid margin causing eyelashes to rub against the eyeball.

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How is entropion treated?

The best treatment for entropion is an operation. As a temporary measure for the lower eyelid, whilst you await surgery, the lower eyelid can be pulled back into its normal position with a piece of tape placed between the lid and cheek.



The operation involves putting stitches through the edge of the eyelid and returning it to its normal position. This is usually combined with a procedure to tighten the eyelid (lateral tarsal strip).

The operation can be done in the minor operations room or ophthalmic theatre, after having an injection of local anaesthetic into the eyelid.

Dissolving stitches are used and a patch will not be needed. Bruising, swelling and discomfort are common for a few days after surgery.

If left untreated, entropion can cause a painful ulcer to develop on the front of your eye which can lead to loss of vision.

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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