

Entropion repair

To improve eye lid position



Information for patients

Ophthalmology (Ocular Plastics)



Large Print

PROUD TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

SHEFFIELD TEACHING HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST



This leaflet explains about the problem you have, and how surgery can be used to treat it.

You have been given a separate booklet about the treatment centre you will be attending. Please refer to it for information about:

- Your anaesthetic
- How you need to prepare
- Where you need to go
- What happens after the procedure

Please read this booklet carefully before you come in. You may want to read it with a friend or relative.

What is an entropion?

An entropion is when the lower eyelid becomes loose, causing the eyelid to turn inwards.

When the eyelid turns in this causes the eyelashes to rub against the front of the eye (the cornea), which can cause irritation and damage to the eye. This turning in may be intermittent to start with, but often becomes constant later on.

What causes an entropion?

The main cause is due to weakening of muscles within the eyelid. Therefore it is more common in older people.

What are the problems associated with an entropion?

The main things you may experience are:

- Redness and/or inflammation of the cornea
- Watering of the eye
- Stickiness and discharge from the eye
- More prone to eye infections

This can lead to:

- Corneal ulcers
 - the lashes continually rub the surface of your eye
 - this can eventually cause scarring, permanently affecting your eyesight

How can it be treated?

The only way to permanently correct an entropion is with a minor operation. This involves making one or more small incisions to the eyelid. The eyelid is then put back into a better position using stitches. This prevents the eyelashes from rubbing further onto the cornea.

How long does the procedure usually take?

Typically it takes about 45 minutes.

Will I have stitches?

Yes. You will have a follow up appointment in clinic usually 2-3 weeks after surgery to have these removed, and to assess the results of the surgery.

What are the risks of this operation?

All operations have some level of risk. The risks for this operation are detailed below. The surgeon will discuss these with you when you sign the consent form before your operation.

There are some common effects of the surgery, which normally settle gradually:

- Bleeding from the wound
 - settles within a few hours
- Bruising and swelling of the eyelids
 - settles within a few days
- Scarring after surgery
 - this usually fades away over a few weeks

There can occasionally be some problems after the surgery, which may require further attention:

- Infection of the wound
 - we provide you with an antibiotic cream to use after surgery which helps prevent this
 - you may require oral antibiotics if an infection develops
- Development of a granuloma (benign lumpy growth that forms near a stitch)

Sometimes further surgery may be required:

- Re-occurrence of the entropion - the lid may turn inwards again after some months or years
- Under-correction - lid may not be tight enough

- Over-correction - lid may be too tight (this may relax over time without further surgery)

Sometimes there may be a slight asymmetry between the eyelids or an altered appearance of the lid:

- NB: Please note the NHS will not do cosmetic surgery, so further surgery is likely to be declined in such cases.

If I choose not to have surgery what could happen?

If you choose **not** to have surgery, the position of your eyelid unfortunately will not improve.

Your symptoms may vary over time. However, continued rubbing of the lashes against the cornea may result in a reduction of vision due to ulceration and scarring.

What can I do to reduce irritation to my eye before my operation?

It is very important to minimise any damage and scarring to your cornea. To protect your eye and reduce symptoms you can try using lubricants and taping your eye lid.

Lubricants moisturise the cornea and can reduce the irritation caused by the eyelashes:

- See your GP or pharmacist for an appropriate eye lubricant
- Use the lubricants several times a day for best effect

Taping the lid helps hold it in a better position, preventing the lashes from touching the cornea:

- Use 3-4cm of medical tape
- Apply tape along the lower eyelid underneath the eyelashes
- Gently pull down so that the eyelashes are in their normal position
- Stick the tape to the cheek
- Change the tape as and when required

If you have any further questions you can contact the oculoplastic team on:

0114 271 1727 (Monday to Wednesday)

0114 226 8964 or **271 2365** (Monday to Friday)



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