

Ophthalmic Outpatients Department

ECTROPION

Patient information sheet

What is ectropion?

Ectropion is a term used for describing the turning out of the lower eyelid and lashes.

Why does it occur?

The majority of ectropion are due to laxity of the tissues of the eyelid as a result of the ageing process, and some are due to eyelid skin disease and shortage.

Symptoms

The eyeball is exposed and can become uncomfortable and sore. The lower lid is turning outwards, the tears produced in the eye will not drain correctly; therefore watering of the eye will occur. There is also a chance of damage to the surface of the eye.

Treatment

Ectropion will need to be repaired surgically to relieve the symptoms. Eye lubrication with artificial teardrops might be necessary. The surgery to repair ectropion can be performed under local anaesthetic. This will involve tightening of the lower lid, which will correct the lid laxity. This is not a small procedure and will take 45 minutes. If the tear ducts are damaged as well, there is a chance that patient may have persistent watery eyes for which they may require a second operation to resolve it.

Advice

Two weeks before surgery patients should liaise with their doctors to discontinue any medications that increase the chance of bleeding: such as Aspirin, Warfarin and non-steroid anti-inflammatory agents, such as ibuprofen and diclofenac.

If you have any questions or worries, please contact
The Eye Clinic on: 01603 288066 Mon-Friday 9am-5pm.

