

Ophthalmology Directorate

Ptosis (droopy eye lids) - Information for Patients

What is Ptosis?

Ptosis is a term used to describe the drooping of the upper eyelid. This is a condition that can affect one or both eyes.

In mild cases of Ptosis, the eyelid sits above the pupil. It is more problematic when the eyelid partially covers the pupil as this may block the upper part of your vision. In severe cases the eyelid fully covers the pupil and the eye appears to be closed.

Why does it occur?

Congenital Ptosis is present from birth. It is caused when the muscle that lifts the eyelid has not developed fully.

Ptosis can also occur in adults where the eyelid becomes droopy due to a lifting muscle of the eyelid becoming detached.

Diagnosis

A visual field test is performed on each eye to detect whether the eyelid is impairing your field of vision. This will be carried out in the Eye Clinic before you see the clinician.

Treatment

Surgical correction is required to repair the drooping upper lid. Surgeons who specialise in this type of corrective surgery perform this operation mostly under local anaesthetic, but general anaesthetic is sometimes used. This is a meticulous operation that can take approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour for each eye. During surgery, the muscle will be re-attached to its original place. There will be stitches which are usually taken out after 1 week.

Advice

Two weeks before surgery you should liaise with your General Practitioner to discontinue any medications that increase the chance of bleeding, such as Aspirin, Warfarin and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents.

If you would like further advice or have any questions, please contact:

Eye Clinic on 01603 288066 9am-5pm Monday to Friday