

PATIENT INFORMATION

Eyelid Surgery

Pre Operative Information

The main purpose of eyelid surgery is to improve the position of the eyelid. There is currently no alternative to surgery. There are various reasons why this may be necessary, details are given below explaining some procedures.

Blepharoplasty

The skin loses its elasticity and our muscles slacken with age. For the eyelids this results in an accumulation of loose skin which collects as folds in the upper lids and forms deepening creases in the lower lids. Drooping of the eyelids is also an effect of the ageing process and aggravates the accumulation of the skin in the upper eyelids. Sometimes so much skin accumulates in the upper lids that it hangs over the eyelashes to obscure vision.

An eyelid reduction (Blepharoplasty) removes the surplus skin and protruding fat to produce a more alert appearance. Sometimes it is only necessary to reduce the skin, sometimes the skin and fat and sometimes just the fat.

Ectropion

This is a medical condition in which the lower eyelid turns outwards.

Entropion

This is a medical condition in which the lower eyelid turns inwards. It usually affects the lower eyelid but it can also affect the upper eyelid.

Ptosis surgery

The aim of surgery to treat ptosis is to lift the drooping eyelid back to a normal position.

Exactly why you are having your operation will be explained to you in the clinic. It may be carried out under local anaesthetic or general anaesthetic. It is very unusual for a patient to stay overnight so most lid surgery is performed on a day case basis. If you are taking warfarin or any other medicines to thin your blood please make sure the surgeon knows when your operation is booked.

Removal of Lesion

This may require one, two or three surgical procedures. This depends on the size and location of the lesion. Usually a biopsy is taken.

Further surgery may be required to ensure;

1. Complete excision of lesion
2. To undertake any necessary reconstruction of the eyelid, so promoting healing and the cosmetic outcome.

RISKS

- Scarring - It is impossible to cut the skin without scarring in some way. Some patients have an abnormal response to skin healing and these patients form scars that are red and raised.
- Nerve damage - All surgery to the skin inevitably cuts small nerves. Occasionally, numbness or pins and needles around the wound may follow surgery and last for

some weeks, occasionally months but recovery almost always occurs.

- Bleeding during or after the operation.
- If you are taking any blood thinning medication such as warfarin, aspirin, clopidogrel or apixaban (or another new oral anticoagulant medication) can you please let us know. You may need to discontinue this medication for a short period only prior to your lid surgery. You will be given instructions by the Admissions Office when you receive your admission date.
- Developing an infection. Signs of an infection may include:
 - The wound becoming painful.
 - The wound becoming red, swollen or inflamed.
 - Unpleasant smell or leakage of fluid from the wound.
- Recurrence and need for further intervention.
- Unexpected reaction to the local anaesthetic.

CONSENT

You will need to sign a consent form prior to your surgery.

ON ARRIVAL

You will be greeted by a nurse and asked to wait in the Day Room whilst being prepared for surgery. You will be on a

theatre list with several other people, so be prepared for a wait. When it is your turn you will be escorted to theatre. Please do not bring valuables with you. Wear clothing that is loose and comfortable, you may need to change to go to theatre. Avoid clothing that needs pulling over your head.

THE OPERATION

Operations under local anaesthetic involve an injection, this causes a tingling/stinging sensation which will last only a few minutes. This will make the skin go numb so no pain should be felt during the procedure. You may feel a pushing or a pulling sensation but this should not be painful. If you feel any pain please inform the nurse/surgeon. Drapes may be placed around your head to keep the operation site clean after the area has been cleansed.

During the procedure there will be some bleeding, the surgeon may coagulate the blood vessels with diathermy. This can make a hissing sound and a burning smell.

If stitches are required they may be removed about five days after the operation. If absorbable stitches are used these will disappear on their own.

You will be given a follow-up appointment if required.

AFTER SURGERY

Most eyelid operations do not carry major risks, but there may be local bleeding leading to a “black eye” The closure of the eyelids may appear tight after surgery because of the swelling and because some skin has been removed. This sensation will settle as the swelling reduces. Following surgery a pad may be placed over your eye to reduce

inflammation. Most patients will be given an antibiotic ointment to use after the operation and you will be given instruction about this before you are discharged.

POST OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR LID SURGERY

If a dressing is applied after surgery you will be advised when this may be removed.

Avoid rubbing the eyelids.

Do not wear any make up for one week.

Take care in shaving or washing your face.

If you feel any discomfort, please use your normal choice of painkiller.

Bruising and swelling may take a number of weeks to settle down.

If you have any stitches they may be removed in the clinic.

Apply ointment as prescribed.

Keep your eyepad on as instructed by the nurse.

APPLYING EYE OINTMENT

Always wash your hands before applying ointment.

If the eyelids are crusty, use cooled boiled water, a cotton bud or gauze and gently wipe lids from inner to outer corner.

Squeeze the ointment onto the wound or use a clean cotton bud to gently dab the ointment on.

DO NOT RUB the ointment into the wound as this may open it.

This patient information leaflet is intended to be used to support discussion during your clinical consultation. If there is anything you do not understand or are unsure about, please ask the doctor at your appointment, or contact the people below.

If you have any queries, please ring us on

(01704) 705217 Mon-Fri 08:30 to 17:00.

If you are concerned outside these hours, contact your General Practitioner or out of hour GP services, which can be accessed via the Care Commissioning Groups. Telephone your GP's number and another number will be given to you or attend the A&E department.

Additional information sources;

www.medinfo.co.uk

www.nurseseyesite.nhs.uk

NOTES

During your contact with us, it is important that you are happy with your care and treatment. Please speak to a member of staff and/or the ward/department Sister/Charge Nurse if you have questions or concerns.

MATRON

A Matron is also available during the hours of 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. During these periods, ward/department staff can contact Matron to arrange to meet with you. Out of hours, a Senior Nurse can be contacted via the ward/department to deal with any concerns you may have.

INFECTION CONTROL REQUEST

Preventing infections is a crucial part of our patients' care. To ensure that our standards remain high our staff have regular infection prevention and control training and their practice is monitored in the workplace. We ask patients and visitors to assist us in preventing infections by cleaning their hands at regular intervals and informing staff of areas within the hospital that appear soiled.

As a patient there may be times that you are unsure whether a staff member has cleaned their hands; if in doubt please ask the staff member and they will be only too happy to put your mind at ease by cleaning their hands so that you can see them.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

ANY CONDITION SPECIFIC DANGER SIGNALS TO LOOK OUT FOR:

CONTACT INFORMATION IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR CONDITION

- Your own GP
- Ophthalmology Dept (01704) 705217 Mon-Fri 08:30 to 17:00.

OTHER USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS/CONTACTS:

www.medinfo.co.uk

www.nurseseyesite.nhs.uk

**Please call 01704 704714 if you need
this leaflet in an alternative format**

Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust

Ormskirk & District General Hospital
Wigan Road, Ormskirk, L39 2AZ

Tel: (01695) 577111

Southport & Formby District General Hospital
Town Lane, Kew, Southport, PR8 6PN

Tel: (01704) 547471

FOR APPOINTMENTS

Telephone (01695) 656680
Email soh-tr.appointments@nhs.net

Please remember to complete the **attached Friends and Family Test**.

Alternatively, you can complete the *Friends and Family Test* on-line by going to:
southportandormskirk.nhs.uk/FFT
Thank you

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