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ECTROPION

Q *What is ectropion?*

A The upper and lower eyelids normally lie against the eye. If an eyelid droops outwards away from the eye it is called ectropion.

Q *What causes ectropion?*

A The commonest cause is due to ageing changes in the eyelids. Another cause is due to weakness of the muscles in the eyelids and the face in a facial palsy. These two causes affect only the lower eyelids. Scars in the skin may also cause ectropion - this type of ectropion can affect the upper or the lower eyelids.

Q *How is ectropion treated?*

A All types of ectropion require a surgical operation. This is usually not a very big operation and would usually take less than an hour. Patients normally go home on the same day.

Q *Will I be awake for the operation?*

A Ectropion surgery is usually done under local anaesthesia which means you will be awake for the operation. Eye drops are put into the eye and a small injection is given into the eyelid (but not into the eye) to make the area numb. You feel little or nothing during the surgery. If you prefer you can have a general anaesthetic which means you will be asleep for the operation.

Q *What are the results of the surgery for ectropion?*

A The results are usually very good. If you have a more complicated type of ectropion which may be more difficult to treat this will be discussed fully with you before the surgery.

Q *Are there any complications from the surgery?*

A Apart from mild bruising and swelling which are common and which quickly settle over the days after the surgery, there are very few complications. If there is a higher risk of any complication because of the type of ectropion you have this will be discussed fully with you before the surgery.

Q *Will the ectropion come back?*

A About 5% of ectropion corrections are not permanent and further surgery may be required. If the type of ectropion you have means that the risk of it coming back is higher, this will be discussed with you before the surgery.

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