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UPPER LID MUSCLE SURGERY FOR PTOSIS

Please see also the Information Sheet 'Ptosis of the Upper Eyelid'

Q *When is this operation used?*

A If the upper eyelid muscles are working reasonably well the surgery aims to tighten them to lift the eyelid. When the eyelid muscles are not working well the alternative operation of “brow suspension” is preferred. The operation to tighten the muscles can be performed in children and adults.

Q *How is the surgery normally done?*

A A general anaesthetic is always used in children. It may also be preferred by adults but local anaesthesia is more common in adult surgery.

The surgery can be performed either through an *incision in the skin* or through an *incision in the back of the eyelid*. The muscle within the lid is tightened and the wound is closed. With a *skin* incision the fine scar is normally hidden under the natural upper lid skin fold. With an incision at the *back of the lid* the wound heals well with no visible scar. Stitches normally absorb and do not need to be removed.

Q *What is the success rate?*

A About 75% of ptosis operations achieve exactly the correct eyelid level with one operation. About 1 in 4 may need some adjustment to the height or curve of the eyelid at a second operation. It is very uncommon for a third operation to be required.

Q *Are there any complications following this type of ptosis surgery?*

A Apart from an incorrect lid level the affected eyelid may “hang up” a little when the eye looks down. The eye may also remain open to a small extent during sleep. These cannot be avoided and they are due to the fact that the affected muscle in the eyelid cannot relax properly. This is a more common problem in the types of ptosis affecting children than in those which affect adults.

Q *Can ptosis come back?*

A Yes. Occasionally the upper lids can droop again some months or years after corrective surgery. This is uncommon however and most ptosis surgery is permanent.

Further copies of this and other Information Sheets can be downloaded
from the website www.anthonityers.net

