

You have been booked for surgery in the Corneo-plastic Unit at Queen Victoria Hospital. Your procedure relates to the face, eyelids, orbit or tear drainage system that together are treated by specialist surgeons in the field of oculoplastic surgery.

At Queen Victoria Hospital, a team of trained doctors and nurses will undertake your treatment and care. Your surgery will be carried out either by a consultant, his fellow or by a member of his team who have deemed this surgery is necessary to protect your vision.

About eyelid surgery

The techniques used in eyelid reconstruction vary considerably with the type of defect that is being repaired. The best procedure may only be determined once the defect is examined before and, occasionally, during surgery. Certain types of defects may require tissue grafts to

repair. In some of these cases your eye may need to be closed for up to two weeks to allow adequate healing of the graft.

What are the risks?

All surgery carries risks and benefits. It is for you to weigh up the risks and benefits before deciding to proceed.

The risks of this surgery include, but are not limited to:

Common side effects which can affect 1 person in every 100

- bruising
- infection
- early swelling
- asymmetry of eyelid position
- contour (curvature) and height
- the need for another operation in the future
- suture related inflammations
- scarring

Rare side effects which can affect 1 person in every 10,000

- loss of lashes
- graft site complications (depending on the graft donor site - skin scarring, mouth scarring - either lip, cheek or hard palate or nose scarring - midline septum or outer wall)
- risk to sight.
- complications may be permanent and further procedures may be necessary

In addition to the risks that relate specifically to your procedure, there are also general risks associated with any surgical procedure, such as blood loss, blood clots, infection, cardiac arrest and airway problems. If your operation is to be carried out under general anaesthetic the anaesthetist will discuss this with you. Local anaesthetic may cause bruising or possible allergic responses.

What are the benefits?

- correction or repair of eyelid defect
- improved cosmetic appearance
- improved eyelid closure and protect eye
- improved symptoms of eye discomfort

Although we have discussed with you the purpose and likely outcome of the proposed procedure it is not possible for us to guarantee a successful outcome in every case. Those treating you will do their best to ensure success but unfortunately complications can and do occur. You should only agree to surgery if you fully understand the risks. If you have any specific concerns, you should discuss them with your surgeon before the operation.

Further Information

For further information visit the British Oculoplastic Surgery Society website: www.bopss.co.uk

For further information about the risks of anaesthetics please see the booklet 'You and your anaesthetic' or visit the Royal College of Anaesthetists' website: www.rcoa.ac.uk

Further queries

Should you have any further questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us:

Corneoplastic Unit (eye clinic)

Tel: 01342 306782

9.00am to 5.00pm

For enquiries out of hours, weekends and bank holidays, please contact:

Ross Tilley Ward. Tel: 01342 414 451

or Switchboard. Tel: 01342 414000

Please ask if you would like this leaflet in larger print or a different format.

Corneo-Plastic Unit

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Eyelid reconstruction

following tumour excision, trauma or any disease involving eyes/eyelids

Corneo-Plastic Unit

