

Forehead and browlift

(Endoscopic approach)

Corneo-Plastic Unit

You have been booked for surgery in the Corneo-Plastic Unit at Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. 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. The consultant ophthalmic and oculoplastic surgeon works closely with his Fellow in oculoplastic surgery. Occasionally, visiting specialist registrars from neighbouring hospitals join the team. Your surgery will be carried out either by a consultant, his Fellow or by a member of the team who is suitably experienced and qualified under appropriate supervision of a senior surgeon.

What is endoscopic brow lifting?

Endoscopic brow lifting is a technique for elevating the eyebrow and lower forehead using special instruments that are inserted through small incisions behind the hairline.

It does not remove excess upper eyelid skin or fat (that procedure is known as blepharoplasty) or change the position of the upper eyelid or make the eye more open (ptosis repair).

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:

- bruising
- early scalp bleeding
- infection
- over-correction
- under-correction
- brow asymmetry
- alopecia (patchy loss of hair at incision sites)
- temporary or permanent numbness in the forehead or scalp area
- facial nerve weakness affecting brow animation or eyelid closure
- early relapse of brow, or forehead descent
- high hairline

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.

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.

What are the benefits?

Raising of eyebrows slightly higher to a more aesthetic position, improvement of hooding of the skin of the upper eyelids, improvement of outer or upper visual field.

Are there any alternatives to surgery?

If you choose not to have this surgery, the position of the eyebrows

and symptoms caused by this are unlikely to improve and may worsen with time. This will not have any permanent detrimental effect on your vision or general health. Other techniques of brow lifting are available and have different risks and benefits – please discuss this with your surgeon if you have any questions.

Further information:

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

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:

Corneo-Plastic Unit (eye clinic)

Tel: 01342 414470

8.30am to 4.30pm

Fax: 01342 414106

For enquiries out of hours, weekends and bank holidays, please contact Ross Tilley Ward. Tel: 01342 414466 / 4451

Please ask if you would like this leaflet in larger print or an alternative format.