

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 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:

- bleeding
- infection
- scarring
- over-correction
- under-correction (persistent droopy eyelid)
- asymmetry of height and contour of eyelid margin or of skin fold
- dry eye requiring the use of artificial tears drops temporarily
- blurred vision
- weak or limited eyelid closure (especially at night)
- failure or recurrence
- the need for another ptosis repair in the future
- cysts or whiteheads along suture sites
- temporary patches of numbness of the eyelids
- orbital haemorrhage with a potential for permanent visual loss

In addition to the risks specific to the individual procedure, there are also

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

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?

- correction of ptosis (droopy eyelid)
- improved symmetry of eyelid height and contour

Upper eyelid ptosis repair

- improved visual fields (peripheral and above)

Where excess skin is also present, skin removal (blepharoplasty) may also be performed.

What are the alternatives?

Surgery is generally the best treatment for ptosis. If, however, you choose not to proceed with surgery, the droopy eyelids will persist and may worsen with time but will not have any permanent detrimental effect on your vision or general health. Ptosis props are devices attached to spectacles that can hold the eyelids up but many people find them uncomfortable or ineffective.

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.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 SOS line:
Tel 01342 306782

9am-5pm

Fax 01342 414106

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

Ross Tilley Ward

Tel: 01342 414451

Switchboard:

Tel: 01342 414000

Corneo-plastic unit
Issue 6- Ref 0274

Approved by the Patient Information Group
Print October 2023 - Review October 2026

© Copyright QVH NHS Foundation Trust

qvh.nhs.uk

