



Queen Victoria Hospital
NHS Foundation Trust

Upper or lower eyelid blepharoplasty

Corneo-Plastic Unit



You have been booked for surgery in the Corneo Plastic Unit for treatment 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 Fellows 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 blepharoplasty?

A blepharoplasty is an operation that usually involves removal of excess eyelid skin, in some cases this can improve vision where the excess skin was obscuring it. Depending on the individual, muscle or fat underlying the skin may also be removed, repositioned or tightened surgically. The procedure can be carried out in the upper or lower eyelid.

Crow's feet and smile lines are not generally improved by blepharoplasty and may change after surgery.

What are the benefits?

- improve visual fields (peripheral and above)
- improve heaviness of eyelids
- improve hooding and cosmetic appearance

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. All patients will experience some bleeding, bruising and swelling after surgery. This improves within two weeks, but may not completely resolve for several months.

After surgery, it is common to experience some:

- blurred vision, which is usually only temporary
- weak or limited eyelid blink or closure (especially at night)
- dry eye requiring the use of artificial tear drops
- temporary patches of numbness of the eyelids
- recurrence of excess skin/bag

Rarely after surgery the following can occur:

- overcorrection or undercorrection of excess skin. Undercorrections generally do not necessitate revision surgery and are relatively common and preferable to overcorrection.

Overcorrection is the result of removal of too much eyelid skin.

- asymmetry of the shape of the eyelids
- cysts or whiteheads along suture sites
- orbital haemorrhage with a potential for permanent visual loss
- infection
- scarring, or persistent eyelid swelling, and other unusual skin changes, especially in patients with thin sensitive skin, are extremely rare complications.

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.

Are there any alternatives to surgery?

If you choose not to have this surgery, the appearance and symptoms caused by the excess skin or fat is not likely to improve and may worsen over time, although this will not have any permanent detrimental effect on your vision or general health. 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:

Corneo-Plastic Unit (eye clinic)

Tel: 01342 306782

9am to 5pm Mon-Fri

For enquiries out of hours, weekends and bank holidays, please contact Ross Tilley Ward. Tel: 01342 414451 or Switchboard. Tel: 01342 414000



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Corneo-plastic Unit

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