

References

If you require a full list of references for this leaflet please email patient.information@ulh.nhs.uk

The Trust endeavours to ensure that the information given here is accurate and impartial.



If you require this information in another language, large print, audio (CD or tape) or braille please email the Patient Information team at patient.information@ulh.nhs.uk

Entropion Surgery

Ophthalmology Department

Royle Eye Department
Pilgrim Hospital
01205 445626

www.ulh.nhs.uk

Aim of leaflet

The aim of this leaflet is to tell you what an entropion is, the treatment available and the risks involved.

What is an entropion?

Entropion is rolling in of the eyelid toward the eye. This often causes irritation as the eye lashes can scratch the front of the eye. You may also experience a red eye, sticky discharge or watering.

Entropion is usually due to the eye lid becoming slack which can happen as people get older. More rarely scarring of the conjunctiva (the pink lining on the inside of the lids) can cause the lid to turn in. This is called a cicatricial entropion.

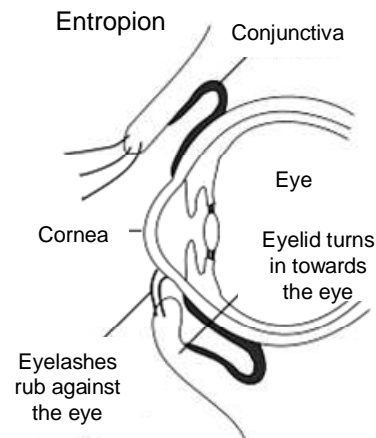
Contact details

If you have any questions about any of the information contained in this leaflet please contact:

Royle Eye Department on 01205 445626

Monday to Thursday 8am to 8pm

Friday 8am to 5pm



Picture shows a view of the eye and eye lids from the side. It shows the lower eyelid turning toward the eye.

- **Loss of sensation** – any incision can cut through nerves, it is possible to have some numbness around the incision site. This usually resolves over a number of months; occasionally it may be permanent.
- **Infection** – this is rare if you follow the instructions on looking after your wound.
- **Haematoma** – a sudden bleed around the eyeball; the eye is pushed forward, the vision often reduces and it is usually painful. This is very rare but a bleed can crush the optic nerve and cause loss of vision long term. This needs urgent treatment.

What is entropion surgery and how is it carried out?

The aim of entropion surgery is to reposition the eyelid back into the correct position. The operation is usually carried out under a local anaesthetic. After anaesthetic eye drops have been inserted, local anaesthetic is injected into the lid to numb the area.

A small cut is made at the outside angle or towards the middle of the eyelid. The eyelid is shortened, tightened and repaired with a dissolving stitch. The lid will look tight after surgery and the area may be uncomfortable for up to 6 to 8 weeks. Further stitches may be placed from the inside of the eye lid and tied on to the skin beneath the lower lid lashes. These are also dissolving stitches and will dissolve over a few weeks.

The operation for each eye takes approximately 45 minutes. A pad may be placed over the eye and you should remove this the day after surgery unless instructed otherwise. You may go home the same day.

What should I do prior to surgery?

If you are taking aspirin or any other blood thinners you will need to inform your doctor as you may need to stop these. This decision is made on an individual basis and you should only do so if it is safe and you have been instructed by your GP, surgeon or anaesthetist. This will be discussed with you before surgery.

All herbal medicines should be stopped at least 14 days before surgery. If you are on Warfarin you should have an INR test within the 5 days before surgery and bring the result of this to surgery.

Smoking impairs healing and if possible you should try to stop 6 to 8 weeks before surgery. If you have high blood pressure ensure that this is well controlled as it will make you more likely to bleed and bruise.

Please bring with you a list of your current medications with details of any known allergies. You will not be able to drive yourself home after the procedure. Please arrange for someone to accompany you home.

What happens after entropion surgery?

If you are in any discomfort take painkillers such as Paracetamol. If your wound begins to bleed, apply pressure to the area with a clean pad for 10 minutes. If the bleeding does not stop seek medical attention at your GP surgery or nearest A&E or Eye Department.

You should keep the incision clean using clean cotton wool and sterile saline or boiled cooled water. You will usually be given antibiotic ointment to apply to your wounds twice a day for 2 weeks.

After surgery you should avoid makeup for 1 week. Cool compresses or ice packs should commence as soon as the pad is removed. Or immediately if there is no pad for 5 to 10 minutes, 4 to 6 times a day for the first 2 days to help the swelling and bruising. You may wrap a bag of frozen vegetables in a clean tea towel to do this or buy an eye cool pack from your pharmacist.

People vary in how quickly the swelling and bruising improves. Bruising will usually resolve over 2 to 3 weeks. Swelling takes longer; most will resolve over 3 to 4 weeks. Swelling and bruising may track into your upper cheeks causing swollen lower lid eye bags; this will improve over time.

Many people return to normal activities after 2 to 3 days. Try to avoid strenuous activity for 2 weeks after surgery to help your wounds heal.

The lid scars fade to white lines over a number of months. Most of the scar will be hidden in your natural lid creases. Sunlight can impair the healing of your scar; it is useful to wear sunglasses in

sunny conditions whilst you are healing.

What are the complications of entropion surgery?

- **Bruising and swelling** – this happens after the operation in everyone.
- **Blurred vision** – this is common and often due to the ointment used on your wounds.
- **Chemosis** - swelling of the clear covering of your eye (conjunctiva) can last a few weeks, this is common.
- **Watering** – this is common and occurs due to irritation of the eyes.
- **Corneal abrasion** – a scratch to the front of the eye; this can be painful but it will normally heal very quickly.
- **Scarring** – wounds heal very well in the majority of people. However, abnormal scars may occur both within the eyelid and deeper tissues. In rare cases, abnormal scars may result. Scars may be unattractive and of a different colour to surrounding skin. There is a small possibility of visible marks in the eyelid or small skin cysts from stitches. These may be temporary or permanent.
- **Asymmetry** – the human face and eyelid region are normally variable. There can be further variation from one side to the other following surgery.
- **Further surgery** – occasionally it is necessary to have a further operation.