



Patient information leaflet

Eyelid surgery (blepharoplasty)

The eyes are the most important aspect of the face and often the first thing that people notice about us. With age, eyelid skin changes in tone and texture so that the eyelids may loosen and sag (dermatochalasis). Excess lax or puffy skin may make you appear older and more tired than you actually are.

Eyelid surgery or blepharoplasty helps to restore a more youthful appearance by removing excess eyelid skin and bulging lid fat from the upper or lower eyelids, leaving you looking relaxed and refreshed rather than exhausted. Overhanging upper lid skin may obstruct your peripheral vision. By removing the excess skin, an upper lid blepharoplasty may expand your field of vision.

Upper lid blepharoplasty

Excess skin and fat is removed through an incision hidden in the natural crease of your eyelid skin. The incision is closed with tissue glue or fine sutures.

Lower lid blepharoplasty

Fat in the lower lids may be removed or repositioned through an incision in the inner surface of the eyelid. If there is excess skin, an incision may be made just below the eyelashes. Fat may be removed or repositioned through this incision and excess skin removed. The incision is closed with fine sutures.

Upper and lower lid blepharoplasty

Upper and lower lid blepharoplasty may be performed at the same time. A blepharoplasty will not correct a droopy eyebrow or wrinkles in the outer corners of the eyes (crow's feet). A brow lift may be more appropriate instead of or as well as a blepharoplasty. Indeed, blepharoplasty may be combined with other procedures such as a droopy eyelid lift (ptosis surgery) brow or forehead lift, botulinum toxin injections, chemical peels and skin resurfacing.

Risks of surgery

Potential risks and complications of blepharoplasty surgery are rare but include: unfavourable scarring, temporarily blurred vision, dry eyes, difficulty closing your eyes, lower eyelid retraction (pulling down of the lower lid), ectropion (out-turning of lower lid), bleeding (haematoma), poor wound healing, infection, inflammation (swelling), fluid accumulation, blood clots, numbness or other changes in skin sensation, pain, skin discolouration, bruising and swelling, exposure of sutures (sutures may spontaneously surface through the skin, become visible or cause irritation and require removal), revision surgery of the outcome is not as expected, anaesthesia risks, loss of eyesight (approximate 1 in 20 000 chance of loss of vision which may be permanent).