



**Faye Mellington** BMBCh(Oxon), MA(Oxon)  
FRCOphth(Lond)

CONSULTANT OPHTHALMIC, OCULOPLASTIC AND ORBITAL SURGEON

## **Patient information leaflet**

### **Entropion**

Entropion is the term given to an in-turned upper or lower eyelid. It is more commonly seen in the lower lid as a result of increased laxity. Other causes include trauma, scarring of the inner aspect of the eyelids, previous surgery.

As the eyelid turns inwards, the eyelashes may rub against the eye surface causing irritable, red, sore and watery eyes, which may be sensitive to light and wind. If untreated, the condition can lead to excessive tearing, mucous discharge and scratches or abrasions of the ocular surface by the mis-directed eyelashes. This may cause secondary eye infections, and permanent scarring of the cornea (the clear front window of the eye), which may pose a risk to vision.

#### *Treatment options*

Ocular lubricants may be used to soothe the eye and provide temporary relief however they will not correct the condition.

Injection of botulinum toxin (Botox) into the lower lid may reverse the in-turning lid and provide symptomatic relief. This is a temporary measure however and usually lasts up to three months. It may be suitable for those who are unwilling or unable to proceed with surgical correction of the lid malposition.

Surgery is usually needed to correct the problem and to restore correct anatomical structure and function of the eyelid. In the lower lid, this is usually achieved through tightening and stabilisation of the lid, in which the outer aspect of the lower lid is repositioned against the lateral wall of the eye socket and the central area of the lower lid is secured and stabilised with sutures. This involves a small skin incision, which is hidden within a small laughter line at the outer corner of the eyelid. Different surgical approaches may be needed depending on the cause. The procedure in the upper lid is different and is dependent upon the cause and extent of the lid malposition.

As such, surgical operating times may vary from 30 to 90 minutes according to the complexity of the case.

Surgery is usually performed as a day case procedure under local anaesthetic (with sedation if needed). Post-operative recovery is usually quick. Most patients experience immediate resolution of their symptoms after surgery.

#### *Risks of the procedure*

No operation is without risk. Minor swelling and bruising is common and may last for up to 2 to 3 weeks. Initially the lid may feel and look very tight and have an Oriental appearance. This generally tends to resolve itself over 4 to 12 weeks. Potential complications (risks) of entropion surgery include bleeding and infection, scarring, under or over correction, asymmetry between the two eyelids, recurrence, irritation from the sutures (stitches) or from an allergy to prescribed eye drops, and damage to the eye or eyesight. These risks are very uncommon in the hands of a specialist Oculoplastic surgeon.

