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Patient information leaflet

Saggy eyelids

The lower eyelid is held in position through its attachments to the bony eye socket at the inner and outer corners of the eyes. It is rather like a tennis net, which is secured at each end to a side post.

As a result of injury or ageing for example, the side attachments of the eyelids may become loose, resulting in a lax, sagging eyelid.

The eyelids are important for protecting the eye and helping to squeeze tears across its surface into the tear drainage system. When the lids are lax, they lose stability such that the lower lid may turn inwards (entropion) or outwards (ectropion). This can cause sore and watery eyes particularly if the eyelid turns inwards and eyelashes rub against the eye.

Depending on the cause of the sagging eyelid, it may be corrected with surgery, to restore the structure, function and appearance of the lid. Procedures include tightening of the lower lid by re-attaching the lid to the side wall of the eye socket, division of scar tissue if the lid is being pulled downwards due to scarring, a cheek lift to support the lower lid and/or a skin graft to the lower lid.

During your consultation with Miss Mellington, she will ascertain the cause of your saggy eyelid and suggest a bespoke surgical solution in line with your individual needs.