BUNBURY & BUSSELTON EYE SPECIALISTS

PATIENT INFO AND ADVICE

What is blepharoplasty?

Blepharoplasty surgery addresses the issue of hooded and swollen upper and lower lids

Sometimes a contributing factor to this appearance may be associated ptosis (droopiness) which may involve the eyelid itself or also involve the brow which may be droopy as well.

Your surgeon will tell you about the components that are involved in your case and which issues can be successfully addressed by surgery. Blepharoplasty surgery may be required for purely cosmetic reasons or there may be functional issues such as loss of the upper field of vision due to obscuration by excess skin.

Are you a candidate for blepharoplasty surgery?

We look especially at the relationship between the eyelids and the brows and the surface of the eyes to exclude dry eye. The vision is measured, eyelid and brow measurements made, and photographic documentation may be taken.

What are the risks and side effects of blepharoplasty surgery?

Complications

- Bruising - this will always occur in varying degrees.
- Local swelling, which is temporary.
- Slight blurring of vision after surgery from local drying and the ointment. If the blurring persists for more than 24 to 48 hours your surgeon should be informed.
- Dry, gritty eyes for 2 to 3 weeks is common due to relative inability to close the eyes.
- Infection is rare.
- Loss of vision. This is very rare.
- Poor blinking

- Hollowed look if excess fat is removed from the lower eyelid.
- Scarring - this is rare in the eyelids as the skin heals so well in this area.

What happens during blepharoplasty surgery?

Upper eyelid blepharoplasty is performed under local anaesthesia, as a day case

- marking the skin with incision lines
- Local anaesthetic drops are placed on the eye
- local anaesthetic is given into the upper eyelid to numb the area.

Lower eyelid blepharoplasty may be done under local anaesthesia or general anaesthesia (asleep).

- Only very small amounts of skin muscle and/or fat are removed from the lower eyelids. .
- Protruding fat and excess skin are removed usually through a small incision made just below the lower eyelashes (subciliary incision).
- It is also common for the surgeon to remove fat bulges from inside the eyelid (transconjunctival) without taking any skin.

What happens after blepharoplasty surgery?

- The eyes may be padded for the first 1 to 2 hours to reduce bruising and swelling.
- The eyelids will usually appear swollen for a few days after surgery. Ice packs are recommended, and sitting upright and sleeping with four pillows will help reduce excess swelling around the eyelids.
- Blepharoplasty is not a very painful operation, but you may take Paracetamol, if needed, but should avoid Aspirin based components which can cause increased bruising.
- Most forms of light exercise and a normal work pattern may be resumed within a few days of surgery
- Stitches will be removed at between 4 and 7 days post operatively
- Make-up worn from about two weeks after surgery.

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