BUNBURY & BUSSELTON EYE SPECIALISTS

PATIENT INFO AND ADVICE

What is lower eyelid ectropion?

Ectropion in an **out** turning of the lower eyelid.

There can be various causes but the most common is aging of the periocular tissue (involutional). This condition causes the eyelid lashes to turn out and the inner lining of the eyelid (the conjunctiva) becomes red and exposed. The condition is not usually painful but can be associated with redness, discharge and a watery eye.

Are you a candidate for surgery?

Lower eyelid ectropion can remain untreated. It causes redness, discharge and watering but does not cause long term damage to the eye itself. The only long term solution is surgical correction of the ectropion.

What are the risks and side effects of ectropion surgery?

Complications

- Bruising - this will always occur in varying degrees.
- Local swelling, which is temporary.
- Recurrence of the ectropion
- infection

What happens during ectropion surgery?

The surgery is performed under local anaesthesia, as a day case with sedation

- marking the skin with incision lines
- Local anaesthetic drops are placed on the eye
- local anaesthetic is given into the lower eyelid to numb the area. This can be done with sedation.
- We often need to perform a skin graft from in front of or behind the ear.

What happens after ectropion surgery?

- The eyes may be padded for the first 1 to 2 hours to reduce bruising and swelling.
- The eyelid 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.
- Ectropion correction 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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