

Entropion

Introduction

Entropion is the inward turning of the eyelid. Most of the cases are due to eyelid tissue involutionary change with age or chronic inflammation or infections like trachoma. A small number of cases are inborn.

In entropion, inverted eyelid and eyelashes may rub on the cornea and the surface of eyeball. This may result in itchiness, discomfort, redness, sand-in-eye feeling, tearing, light sensitivity or pain. In severe cases there may be corneal abrasion, infection, scarring, blurring of vision and even end up in severe visual loss.

Most of the time surgery may be needed for full correction of entropion. For entropion due to chronic infection or inflammation, such should be treated with medication before surgical procedure. For mild cases, medication such as lubricant can be used for symptomatic relief if patient refuses surgery.

The Procedure

- The operation is usually performed under local anaesthesia. Anaesthetic agent will be injected at the operation site and then doctor will proceed to correct the lid entropion. Patient will remain awake during the whole procedure. In special situations, general anaesthesia may be required for example if the operation nature is complex or the patient is uncooperative.
- For severe entropion due to chronic eyelid infection or inflammation, additional surgical procedures such as the grafting of one's hard palate tissue to the lid or removal of redundant skin etc may be needed.

Possible Risks and Complications

- The success rate of entropion correction is high while the complication rate is low. However, complications such as bleeding, infection, scarring and persistent swelling may sometime occur.
- Occasionally there may be over correction, under-correction or the corrected entropion may recur. Another entropion correction surgery may be necessary then.

Before the Procedure

- Inform your doctor if you have other systemic disease such as hypertension, stroke, heart disease, diabetes or you are taking `blood thinning` medication like Aspirin or Warfarin, traditional Chinese medicine or health supplements on a regular basis.

After the Procedure

- You should keep the wound clean and avoid rubbing the operated eye.
- Use eye-drop or eye ointment as prescribed, as these medications will help to prevent infection and inflammation.
- It is advisable to avoid washing your hair for about one week after the operation, to avoid infection.

Follow Up

- You must follow instructions strictly on applying medication and keep the schedule for follow up.
- If you have any excessive bleeding, severe pain, fever or signs of wound infection such as redness, swelling or large amounts of foul-smelling discharge from the wound, see your doctor immediately or attend any nearby Accident and Emergency Department.

Remarks

This is general information only and the list of complications is not exhaustive. Other unforeseen complications may occasionally occur. The actual risks may be different for different patients. During the operation, unpredictable condition may arise, and additional procedures may be performed if necessary. For further information, please contact your doctor.