

# Ptosis of the Eyelid

---

This material will help you understand ptosis and how it is treated.

## **What is ptosis?**

Ptosis (pronounced “toe-sis”) is drooping of one or both eyelids. Your eyelid may droop only slightly, or it can cover most of your eye. This may make it difficult for you to see.

## **What causes ptosis?**

Ptosis can be congenital, meaning you were born with the condition. Ptosis can also develop as you get older. The most common cause of ptosis in adults is that the skin around the eye is loose. This happens naturally as you age. It can also happen after eye surgery or after an injury to the eye. Some rare muscle and brain diseases can also cause ptosis.

Ptosis in children is usually caused by poor development of the muscle that lifts the eyelid. In some cases, children with ptosis also have abnormal eye movements or a muscle disease.

## **How is ptosis treated?**

Your eye doctor will determine whether or not you need treatment. Treatment for adults and children with ptosis may involve surgery. The type of surgery depends on the cause and on how much the

eyelids droop. If there is a muscle or brain disease causing the ptosis, treatment of the underlying problem may be needed instead.

**For more information, scan these codes with your smartphone or visit the websites listed.**



<http://www.kellogg.umich.edu/patientcare/conditions/ptosis.html>



<http://www.geteyesmart.org/eyesmart/diseases/ptosis.cfm>

Disclaimer: This document contains information and/or instructional materials developed by the University of Michigan Health System (UMHS) for the typical patient with your condition. It may include links to online content that was not created by UMHS and for which UMHS does not assume responsibility. It does not replace medical advice from your health care provider because your experience may differ from that of the typical patient. Talk to your health care provider if you have any questions about this document, your condition or your treatment plan.

Author: Kristin Maurer, BA, MPH candidate  
Reviewers: Lindsey DeLott, MD and Gale Oren, MILS

Unless otherwise noted, Patient Education by [University of Michigan Health System](#) is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License](#).

Last Revised 11/2014