

Ectropion

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

What is ectropion?

Ectropion is the turning out of your eyelid. It usually affects the lower eyelid and exposes the inner surface of the eye. Symptoms of ectropion include:

- Dryness
- Irritation
- Eye pain
- Redness of the eyelid and the white part of the eye
- Excessive tearing
- Sensitivity to light
- Chronic conjunctivitis (pink eye)

If left untreated, ectropion may lead to eye infections, corneal abrasions, or corneal ulcers.

What causes ectropion?

The most common cause of ectropion is aging. As you get older, the tendons and muscles that hold up your eyelid may begin to stretch out. This means that they are no longer able to hold up your eyelid. Other causes of ectropion include: facial nerve paralysis (like Bell's palsy), trauma, scarring, or previous surgeries.

How is ectropion treated?

The treatment for ectropion depends on the cause. You can use artificial tears or ointment to temporarily relieve your symptoms. For a more permanent solution, your doctor may recommend surgery. Surgery restores the eyelid to the normal position. It is usually performed as an outpatient procedure. Most patients notice a difference immediately after the surgery. It can make your

eyes feel more comfortable and reduce your risk of developing eye infections, corneal abrasions, and corneal ulcers. As with all surgeries, there are some risks such as bruising and swelling. Talk to your doctor about whether surgery is right for you.

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



<http://www.asoprs.org/files/public/InfoEctropion.pdf>



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

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