



# Entropion

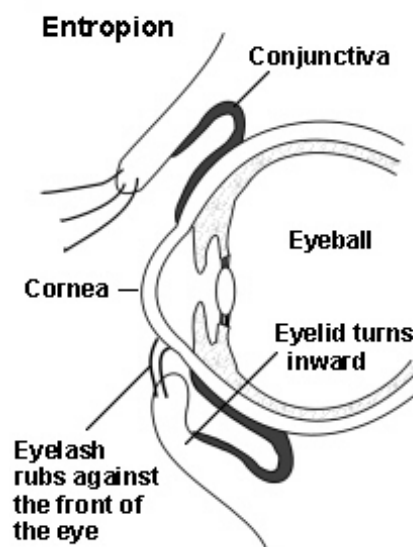
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**This leaflet is for patients with entropion and explains the treatment, including risks and benefits.**

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## What is entropion?

Entropion is the medical term used to describe rolling inward of the lower eyelid and eyelashes towards the eyeball. The skin of the eyelid and the eyelashes rub against the cornea (the front part of the eye) and conjunctiva (the mucous membrane that protects the eye). This rubbing can lead to excessive tearing, crusting of the eyelid, mucous discharge, a feeling of a foreign body in the eye, irritation of the cornea, and impaired vision.



## What causes entropion?

Most cases of entropion are due to weakening of the tissues and small muscles of the eyelid, as a result of ageing. Some cases result from scarring of the inner surface of the eyelid caused by chemical and thermal burns, inflammatory diseases such as ocular pemphigoid, or allergic reactions.

## How is entropion treated?

Entropion should be repaired surgically before the rubbing damages the cornea by causing infection and scarring. Prior to surgery, the eye can be protected by taping the lower lid down and using lubricating drops and ointment. In some cases, stitches can be placed through the lower eyelid until more definitive surgery can be performed.

The surgery to repair entropion is usually performed under local anaesthesia as an outpatient. In most cases, your doctor will tighten the eyelid and its attachments. You may have a patch overnight and then will usually use an antibiotic drop or ointment for about two weeks. After your eyelids heal, your eye will feel comfortable and you will no longer have the risk of corneal scarring, infection, and loss of vision.

## **Are there any risks or side effects of surgery?**

- There may be bruising around the eye.
- There is a small risk of infection of the lid or eye.
- There is a possibility of recurrence or over correction of the eyelid, which may require-further operation.
- You may have an allergic reaction to the local anaesthetic injection or the antibiotic drops / ointment.

**If you have any concerns or questions, please speak to your consultant.**

## **What are the benefits?**

- Relief of symptoms.
- Reduction of risk of eye infection.
- Restoration of the normal appearance of the eyelid.

## **Contacting us**

If you have a minor eye problem, please seek advice from your GP, optician or pharmacist. If urgent, please attend Eye Casualty or call 111.

Eye Casualty (Reading):	Mon-Fri 8.30am to 5pm; Sat & Sun & bank holidays 9am-12.30pm; Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day.
Eye Casualty: Prince Charles Eye Unit (Windsor):	Mon-Fri 8.30am to 5pm; Sat 8.30am-12.30pm; Closed Sun & bank holidays.
Dorrell Ward (Reading):	0118 322 7172
Eye Day Unit (Reading):	(24 hours a day)

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**Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.**

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