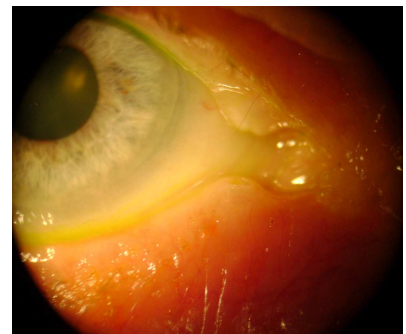


Ectropion - Outward Turning of the Eyelid.

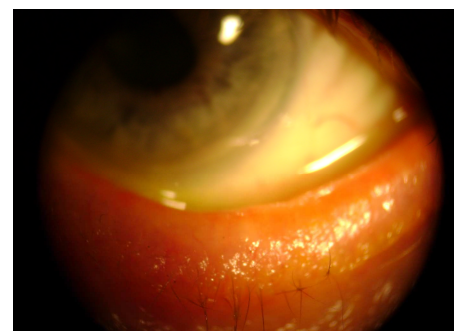
This is a condition of the eye lids. It is more common to occur on the lower lids and the upper lid. This is where stretching of the lids which often occurs with age causes the lower lid to droop and turn outwards. The effect of this can often be to turn the punctum which is situated in the inner corner of the eye to turn outwards as well. The punctum of the eye is where the tears drain down the tiny lacrimal tubes into the nose. Thus it is rather like the plughole in a sink and if the plughole is not in the bottom of the sink and fluid will collect and the eye becomes watery. This can often be one of the first signs of an ectropion. In addition as the lid turns outwards the soft pink Tarsal Conjunctiva can become exposed. If this is left then this Tarsal Conjunctiva can become what we call Keratinised. When this happens it can be quite difficult to correct.

This photograph shows a lower lid which was in the normal position one year ago and over the past few months has become outwardly turning and the tarsal conjunctiva is becoming exposed and will in time to come keratinised if surgery is not undertaken.

This is a medial ectropion and one can see that the punctum is now pointing upwards as opposed to against the eye. Thus the tears of the eye have to roll over the edge before they can roll down the tear duct.



This patient here has a more extensive ectropion and the lid is turning outwards the soft tarsal conjunctiva is becoming exposed and in time this will become keratinised and dry.



These conditions need to be treated because they will

lead ultimately to exposure of the eye, dryness of the eye and even ulcers.

Such surgery is normally undertaken by an Oculoplastic surgeon and is undertaken under local anaesthetic.

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