

## Ptosis - Droppy Eye lid

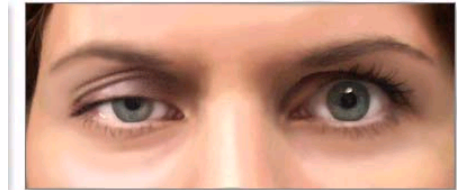
Ptosis is the medical term for a drooping of the upper eyelid. It is a common eye condition and can fall into 2 major categories: Comes from [from Greek: a falling

- congenital ptosis which will have been apparent since birth. Usually it is due to abnormal development of the levator muscle which pulls the eyelid up.
- acquired ptosis tends to become apparent in later life and may be caused by ageing changes, lid trauma, eye surgery, neurological or muscular conditions.

### Investigations

These are carried out by an ophthalmologist and include a full history of the condition; eye examination; visual acuity test; examination of eye movements. Lid measurements will be taken to accurately measure the degree of lid drooping and amount of muscle function in order that plans can be made for the best mode of treatment. Treatment often involves an operation. This is often done by an Ocular Plastic surgeon who is an ophthalmologist specialising in Lid surgery or sometimes by a plastic Surgeon.

Ptosis (drooping of the eyelid)



ADAM

### Treatment

The timing of this can vary. In children if there is no sign of the development of amblyopia (lazy eye), then an operation is often delayed until the age of 3 or 4 years.

In most cases the operation will involve strengthening the levator muscle in the eyelid. In very severe ptosis then surgery involving the muscles above the eyebrow is performed. The latter operation will involve using either sutures or tissue from the leg to form a connection between the muscles in the eyelid and eyebrow.

- In nearly all cases of ptosis in adults, surgery is performed with a local anaesthetic.
- A stitch is often left in the lower lid until 48 hours after surgery. This is designed to keep the eyelid closed which prevents the eye becoming exposed after the operation. It is usually removed when the pads are removed 48 hours following surgery but may remain for a few days more.
- Any skin sutures are normally removed after approximately 2 - 6 weeks depending on the type of operation performed.
- After the operation, it is normal for a "pressure dressing" to be left in place for 48 hours. This normally consists of eye pads and elastoplast which is firmly applied. This is intended to minimize post-operative swelling and bruising.
- It is normal for antibiotics, in either drop or ointment form, and lubricating drops to be used after the operation.
- As the local anaesthetic starts to wear off, it is quite common for the eyelid to ache. This requires mild painkillers such as paracetamol or Co-Proxamol.
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### What to expect

Initially the eyelids are often bruised and swollen. This can take up to 2 - 3 weeks to completely clear up. It is often too early to judge the final outcome immediately after surgery, although every attempt is made to achieve the best cosmetic outcome for each individual.

Extracted from Oxford Eye web site 17/12/2003  
<http://www.ox.ac.uk/Clinical/LEAFLETS/ptosis.htm>