

Ptosis - drooping of eyelid

Orbit, Lacrimal and Oculoplasty services

Joseph Speciality Eye Clinic and Surgical Centre, Thiruverkadu.

Ptosis

Ptosis refers to drooping of the upper eyelid. This droop may cover part of the eye or the whole eye. Ptosis can affect one eye or both the eyes.

What causes Ptosis?

Ptosis in adults

- Ageing causes laxity of eyelid resulting in ptosis.
- Following injury or surgery

It can result from disease of the eyelid muscle or its nerve supply like in Myasthenia Gravis or Diabetes Mellitus.

Ptosis in Children

- Ptosis can be present at birth as a result of poor development of the eyelid lifting muscle. This is called *Congenital ptosis*
- Ptosis can also result from ocular movement abnormalities, muscular diseases, lid tumours and neurological disorders.

What are the signs and symptoms of Ptosis

- A drooping upper eyelid
- There may be some visual loss in the upper part of the visual field.
- Patients may have to tip their head back or raise their eyebrows in an effort to raise their eyelids.
- A severe or moderate congenital ptosis may hinder normal vision development and causes lazy eye also known as *Amblyopia*
- If untreated, Amblyopia may lead to permanent reduction of vision in the affected eye.

How is Ptosis treated?

Treatment may include the following

- Investigations such as blood tests to determine the cause of ptosis.
- Surgical intervention to lift the muscle of the eyelid. This would improve the vision as well as cosmetic appearance.
- Surgery for adults is usually done under local anaesthesia and as a daycare procedure.
- The surgery for surgical correction of ptosis in children is done under general anaesthesia and would require admission.

After surgery

- Soon after surgery, there may be swelling of the operated eye which usually subsides with cold compresses and medication
- The surgical results are usually good in adults. Very rarely there may be a requirement for resurgery.
- Work may be resumed after a week.
- In children, the operated eye may look prominent on looking down. This happens when surgery is done for severe ptosis with very poor function of the muscle that lifts the eyelid. In the straight ahead position, the operated eye would look very much like the normal eye.
- In children, the operated eye may look exposed in sleep. This usually becomes better after a month and should not cause any apprehension.
- Children with severe ptosis may require resurgery after a few years.

This is a patient information leaflet. For enquiries, do not hesitate to contact Joseph Speciality Eye Clinic and Surgical Centre at 9600096585 , 04426801798.