

Ectropion – outward turning of eyelid



Orbit, Lacrimal and Oculoplasty services

Joseph Speciality Eye Clinic and Surgical Centre, Thiruverkadu

What is Ectropion?

The lower eyelid normally fits snugly against the eyeball. The outward turning of the eyelid is called Ectropion

What causes Ectropion?

- Ageing causes the tissues of the lower eyelid to lose elasticity and stretch. This causes the eyelid to sag and turn outwards. This is called *Involitional Ectropion*

Involitional Ectropion



- Scarring of the eyelids and facial skin near the eye resulting from burns, chemical splashes and certain skin diseases can also cause ectropion. This is called *Cicatricial Ectropion*.

Cicatricial Ectropion



- Paralysis of the facial nerve can result in loss of the muscle tone of the lower eyelid leading to ectropion. This is called *Paralytic Ectropion*

What are the symptoms and signs of Ectropion?

- Excessive tearing
- Redness
- Outward turning of eyelid
- Scarring of the cornea

What are the complications of Ectropion?

Long standing Ectropion can cause ulceration of the cornea (the transparent portion of the eye) which can lead to loss of vision.

How is Ectropion treated?

- Although tear substitutes may produce symptomatic relief, ectropion is best corrected by surgery.
- The surgical procedure involves tightening the tissues of the eyelid in cases of involutional ectropion. This procedure is usually done as a daycare procedure.
- Correction of cicatricial ectropion involves skin graft to the eyelid. The skin required for the graft is taken from either behind the ear or in front of the ear.
- Apart from lid tightening, paralytic ectropion may require other procedures such as *Browlift or Tarsorrhaphy* (suturing of the corner of the eyelids) depending upon the severity of the condition

Involutional ectropion

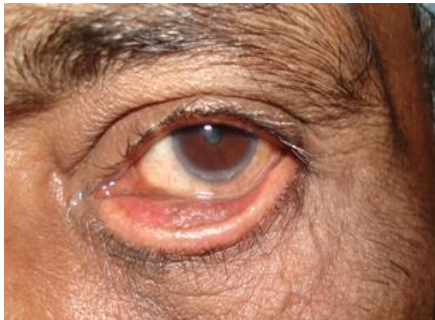
Pre-op



Post - op



Pre- op



Post-op



After surgery

- There may be swelling of the eyelids after surgery which subsides with cold compresses and medication.
- Work may be resumed within a week after correction of involuntional or paralytic ectropion. Skin graft for a cicatricial ectropion may take longer to heal.

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