

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Blepharoplasty is a surgical procedure to remove excess skin and muscle from both the upper and lower eyelids. Underlying fatty tissue that produces bagginess can be selectively removed or repositioned. Blepharoplasty can improve drooping skin and bagginess. It can help improve vision in older patients who have hooding of their upper eyelids. Although it can add an upper eyelid crease to the Asian eyelid, it will not erase evidence of one's racial or ethnic heritage. Blepharoplasty will not remove "crow's feet" or other wrinkles, eliminate dark circles under the eyes, or lift sagging eyebrows.

Blepharoplasty surgery is customized for every patient, depending on his or her particular needs. It can be performed alone involving upper, lower, or both eyelid regions, or in conjunction with other surgical procedures of the eye, face, brow, or nose. In some patients who have looseness between the lower eyelid and the eyeball, consideration for tightening of the lower eyelid (canthoplasty/canthopexy) at the time of blepharoplasty may be recommended. Eyelid surgery cannot stop the process of aging. It can however, diminish the look of loose skin and bagginess in the eyelid region.

**ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS**

Alternative forms of management include not treating the skin laxness and bagginess in the eyelids by surgery. Improvement of skin laxness, fatty deposits, and skin wrinkles may be accomplished by other treatments or surgery, such as a brow lift when indicated. Other forms of eyelid surgery may be needed should you have disorders affecting the function of the eyelid such as drooping eyelids from muscle problems (eyelid ptosis) or looseness between the eyelid and eyeball (ectropion). Minor skin wrinkling may be improved through chemical skin-peels, laser resurfacing, or other skin treatments.

**SPECIFIC RISKS OF BLEPHAROPLASTY SURGERY**

**Blindness:**

Blindness is extremely rare after blepharoplasty. However, it can be caused by internal bleeding around the eye during or after surgery. The occurrence of this is not predictable.

**Dry Eye Problems:**

Permanent disorders involving decreased tear production can occur after blepharoplasty. The occurrence of this is rare and not entirely predictable. Individuals who normally have dry eyes may be advised to use special caution in considering blepharoplasty surgery.

**Ectropion:**

Displacement of the lower eyelid away from the eyeball is a rare complication that can occur during lower lid surgery. Further surgery may be required to correct this condition.

**Corneal Exposure Problems:**

Some patients experience difficulties closing their eyelids after surgery and problems may occur in the cornea due to dryness. Should this rare complication occur, additional treatments, or surgery and treatment might be necessary.

**Eyelash Loss:**

Hair loss may occur in the lower eyelash area where the skin was elevated during surgery. The occurrence of this is not predictable. Hair loss may be temporary or permanent.

**Asymmetry:**

Differences in the appearance of the eyes, the amount of eye opening, the shape of the eye, position of the lid crease, or the apparent size of the eyes may be noted after surgery. There are always mild differences in the size of the eyes, the bones of the eye socket, and skin around the eyes. Further surgery may be needed, and in some cases, the differences may not be correctable.