Denver Eyelid Specialists
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Informed Consent for Ectropion surgery

What can cause the need for ectropion surgery?

Over time an eyelid can pull away from the eyeball. This can be due to gravity, scarring, chemical burn or a number of reasons. The eye can become exposed to air and even tear because tears are unable to reach the tear duct.

What is an ectropion surgery?

When Dr Thiagarajah performs an ectropion surgery he tightens the eyelid to pull the eyelid back into position. This is with stitches on the inside of the eyelid along with the side corner. Additionally he may have to place a skin graft or sutures to help rotate the eyelid into the proper position. The procedure is usually an outpatient procedure that takes 30 minutes.

How will ectropion surgery affect my vision or appearance?

An ectropion should not cause vision loss. That being said anytime one operates around the eye there is a remote risk of vision loss or vision problems. The eyelid may appear tight after surgery. There will be a small incision in the side corner of the eyelid. If a skin graft was placed, best efforts will be made to match the surrounding eyelid skin but it will not match 100%.

What are the major risks?

Risks of Ectropion surgery include risk of vision loss, stroke, bleeding, facial nerve damage, scarring, infection. The surgery may not work in that the eyelid may relax after the surgery. You may need additional treatment or surgery to treat these complications; the cost of the additional treatment or surgery is NOT included in the fee for this surgery. Due to individual differences in anatomy, response to surgery, and wound healing, no guarantees can be made as to your final result.

What are the alternatives?

It is possible to do nothing and live with the eyelid turning out. There are no medications to treat ectropion of the eyelid.

What type of anesthesia is used? what are the major risks?

Most ectropion surgeries are done with “local” anesthesia, that is, injections around the eye to numb the area. You may also receive sedation from a needle placed into a vein in your arm or pills taken before surgery. Sometimes general anesthesia is used where the patient is completely asleep with a tube down the throat. Risks of anesthesia include but are not limited to damage to the eye and surrounding tissue and structures, loss of vision, breathing problems, and, in extremely rare circumstances, stroke or death.

Patient’s acceptance of risks

I have read the above information and have discussed it with my physician. I understand that it is impossible for the physician to inform me of every possible complication that may occur. My physician has told me that results cannot be guaranteed, that adjustments and more surgery may be necessary, and that there are additional costs associated with more treatment. By signing below, I agree that my physician has answered all of my questions, that I understand and accept the risks, benefits, and alternatives of Ectropion repair of eyelid, and the costs associated with this surgery and future treatment, and that I feel I will be able to accept changes in my appearance .

Patient (or person authorized to sign for patient)

Date