Denver Eyelid Specialists
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Informed Consent for Eyelid Retraction Surgery

What is eyelid retraction?

Sometimes patients may have trouble closing their eyelids. After surgery, trauma, burns, or aging, the lower eyelids can be pulled down exposing the eye surface more. The eye can then become dry and damaged. In order to help the patient close their eyes and prevent it from drying out as much, the lower eyelid can be lifted or raised.

How will eyelid retraction surgery affect my vision and appearance

There are several ways to repair eyelid retraction of the lower eyelid. First the eyelid corner can be tightened. This is called a canthoplasty. With the canthoplasty a spacer material can be placed in the lower eyelid. This is a collagen material that is placed inside the lower eyelid to help lift it up. Finally a skin graft is sometimes necessary to be placed to help lift the eyelid if there is not enough skin on the lower eyelid. These different procedures which help eyelid retraction all can change the eye appearance. The vision of the patient should not be affected. The eye appearance from a canthoplasty or lid tightening can raise the corner of the eyelid and tighten the lower eyelid. The spacer material can raise the height of the lower eyelid so the eye appears smaller in appearance. Finally a skin graft in the lower eyelid can be visible and be seen by an observer. Usually the skin graft blends in but sometimes it does not.

What are the major risks of eyelid retraction surgery?

Risks of eyelid retraction surgery, like most eyelid surgical procedures include but are not limited to: bleeding, infection, an asymmetric or unbalanced appearance, scarring, a “wide-eyed” or “open” appearance, droopy eyelid surgery, difficulty with or inability to wear contact lenses, double vision, tearing, scratches on the eye or corneal irritation or dry eye and need to remove the spacer numbness and/or tingling in the operated eyelid, near the eye, or on the face, change in appearance and in rare cases, loss of vision. While eyelid retraction surgery is usually permanent, the condition can recur. If it does, you may need to have repeat surgery. The result of eyelid retraction surgery cannot be guaranteed. The eyelid tightening part of the procedure can fail or stitches can break relaxing the eyelid back down. Sometimes the spacer become infected and have to be removed. The skin graft can be rejected or fail as well. Some patients have difficulty adjusting to changes to their appearance. Some patients have unrealistic expectations about how changes in appearance will impact their lives. Carefully evaluate your goals, expectations and your ability to deal with changes to your appearance and the possible need for repeat surgery before agreeing to this surgery.

What are the alternatives to eyelid retraction surgery?

There are several alternatives to eyelid retraction surgery. The eyelid can be sewn shut in the corner to help it be more closed. The patient can use artificial tears or lubrication of the eye as often as every hour to help lubricate the eye. The upper eyelid can be lowered to help the eye be more closed. Botox injections can be given every three-four months to help close the upper eyelid. The entire cheek can be raised to help lift the eyelid.

What type of anesthesia is used and what are its risks

In children, general anesthesia is necessary. In teenagers and adults, gold weight surgery is usually performed on an outpatient basis under local anesthesia. The patient must be able to cooperate to some degree. Gold weight surgery with minimal (oral) sedation is desired in most cases. Some cases require sedation from a needle placed into a vein in your arm before surgery. Fortunately, even with no sedation, most patients do not find the operation to be very painful, and it only takes a short period of time. Risks of anesthesia, when administered, include but are not limited to damage to the eye and surrounding tissues 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 and that adjustments and more surgery may be necessary. By signing below, I agree that my physician has answered all of my questions and that I understand and accept the risks, benefits, and alternatives of eyelid retraction surgery

I consent to eyelid retraction surgery on:

_____ Right eye _____ Left eye _____ Both eyes

_____ _____

Patient (or person authorized to sign for patient) Date