Denver Eyelid Specialists
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Informed Consent for Canthoplasty

What can cause the need for eyelid surgery?

With age, the skin and muscles of the eyelid can sag and droop. In the lower eyelids that may cause the eyelids to sink into a lower position that exposes the bottom of the eye. Tightening the eyelids can reposition the eyelids into a higher position.

What is lateral tarsal strip or canthoplasty?

A canthoplasty is a procedure to tighten the outer corner of the eyelid in order to tighten the overall lower eyelid. It involves making a small cut in the side of the lower eyelid near the ear and placing a stitch to tighten the eyelid back in corner.

How will eyelid surgery affect my vision or appearance?

The results of a canthoplasty depend upon each patient's symptoms, unique anatomy, appearance goals, and ability to adapt to changes. The lower eyelids after a canthoplasty may have an elevated appearance (slanted look). This usually relaxes in time but may have to be repositioned or redone. The eyelid will appear tighter.

What are the major risks?

Risks of canthoplasty or lateral tarsal strip include but are not limited to: bleeding, infection, an asymmetric or unbalanced appearance, scarring, difficulty closing the eyes (which may cause damage to the underlying corneal surface), double vision, tearing or dry eye problems, inability to wear contact lenses, numbness and/or tingling near the eye or on the face, and, in rare cases, loss of vision. 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. For some patients, changes in appearance may lead to anger, anxiety, depression, or other emotional reactions.

What are the alternatives?

You may be able to live with the lower eyelid drooping down. If your eye is also irritated from the drooping, managing the problem with lubricating eyedrops may be an option.

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

Most canthoplasties 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. 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 blepharoplasty, 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