

Columbus Ophthalmology Associates
ENTROPION

What is an entropion?

An entropion is an eyelid that turns inward and typically affects the lower lid. When the eyelid turns inward, the lashes rub against the eye resulting in irritation, scratchiness, tearing and redness. This condition most often affects the lower eyelids due to age or injury. The most common cause is the loss of the normal skin tone of the lower lid which causes it to fall backwards against the eye itself. This can lead to symptoms; such as foreign body sensation, scratchiness, irritation and redness. It can also lead to higher rates of infection of the lid and eye itself.

What are the symptoms?

- Tearing
- Burning
- Irritation
- Sandy, gritty feeling
- Red eye

How is an entropion detected and diagnosed?

An entropion can be detected during a routine eye exam. A slit lamp microscope is utilized to examine the effects of in-turned eyelashes on the surface of the eye.

What treatment is available?

Surgical repair of entropion involves tightening the lower eyelid on its outermost aspect. In addition, a small incision is made under the lower lid to tighten the muscles in this area to help pull the lashes away from the surface of the eye. The incision is closed using sutures that are left in place for approximately 12-14 days. Ointment is placed along the incision line and on the sutures to help prevent infection.

What are the restrictions after surgery?

There are virtually no restrictions after entropion surgery, although care must be taken not to rub the eye and eyelid. This could disrupt the sutures. These sutures are removed in the office approximately two weeks after surgery. Infection is quite rare with entropion surgery due to the extensive blood supply to the eyelids.

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