



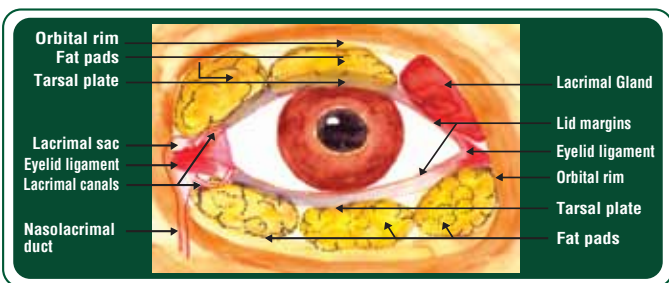
SIMPLY

speaking

Common Eye Diseases

Eyelid Problems

The eyelids protect the eye from physical harm and noxious substances, spread the tears over the surface of the eye, and blocks light (and images) from entering the eye. If the eyelids develop anatomic or functional abnormalities, the eyes can suffer and vision can be affected. Because the lids form the borders of the visible eye, eyelid pathologies particularly of the lid margins are immediately obvious and produce cosmetic problems as well.

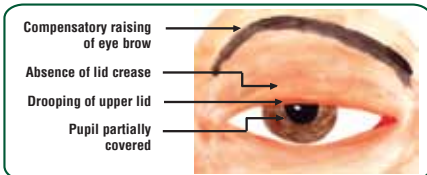


Dermatochalasia

With advancing age, the protein and elastic fibers of the skin degenerate, causing the skin to loosen and sag, a condition called dermatochalasia. Dermatochalasia is most evident in the lids and around the eyes, further complicated by the forward displacement of the fatty tissue around the eyeball. Characteristically, with age, there is progressive drooping of the skin of the upper lids, eye bags, crow's feet and wrinkles. Surgery to correct the conditions described above is called blepharoplasty. It can range from just excision of the excess skin, to removal of some fat around the eyes, and to tightening of the ligaments of the eye lids.

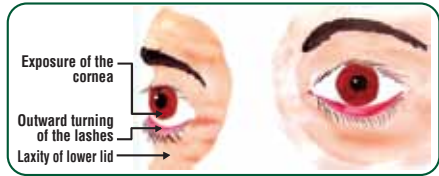
Ptosis

The muscle that lifts the cartilagenous support of the upper lid is the levator. There are conditions where the levator may be weak either due to a congenital problem or from trauma causing difficulty in lifting the upper lid. With age, at times the attachment of the muscle to the upper lid weakens, causing the lid to droop. The drooping of the upper lid is called ptosis (pronounced toe-sis) and can happen on one side only or on both sides. Often, a patient with ptosis compensates by lifting the eyebrows. Ptosis surgery involves repairing the attachment of the levator to the lid or shortening of the levator muscle to lift the eyelid.



Ectropion

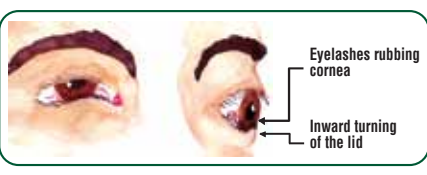
Ectropion is the outward turning of the eyelid. The muscle around the eye that forms a ring around it closes the lids and is called the orbicularis oculi. Due to aging, the muscle may weaken and stretch to the point that the entire lower lid



may sag outward. A deep scar around the lids may also pull on the lower lid outward. The outward rotation of the lid is called ectropion and will cause chronic redness, tearing, discharge and dryness of the surface of the eye. Surgery will depend on the underlying reason for the ectropion.

Entropion

In entropion, the eyelid rotates inward. As a result of the inward rolling of the lids, the lashes hit the ocular surface producing recurrent tearing, redness, itchiness, and discharge. Surgery can restore the equilibrium by tightening the attachments of the lid to its surrounding structures.



Lid Swelling or Edema

The loose, thin skin of the eyelids makes the space under the skin prone to accumulating body fluid be it due to excess fluid from kidney or heart disease, due to blood or serum after blunt trauma, pus from eyelid infection, or tissue fluid from an allergic reaction. Treatment is usually nonsurgical and directed toward the primary reason for the production of fluid accumulation.

Proptosis

Conditions that can lead to swelling of the tissues behind the eye and growths behind the globe can cause the eye to be pushed forward. The forward protrusion of the eyeball is called proptosis. It is common in patients with hyperthyroidism. Lesions behind the eyeball that can cause proptosis include tumors, orbital infection, and malformations of blood vessels supplying the back of the eye. Treatment is dependent on the extent of the proptosis and its cause. Scanning by computerized tomography (CT) or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) will often be necessary to establish the diagnosis.



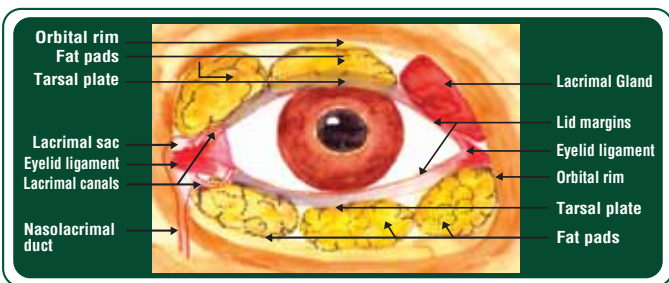
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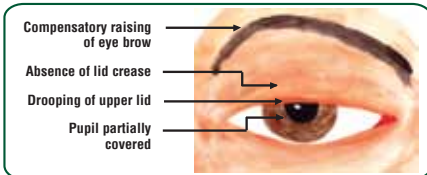


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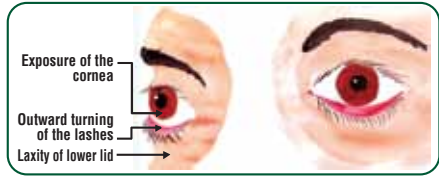
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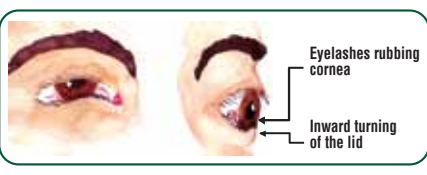
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