

This information sheet is designed to provide more information for patients awaiting oculoplastic surgery by Mr David Cheung. Further information is available from Mr Cheung's website: www.mrdavidcheung.com

What is ptosis?

Ptosis commonly refers to a drooping upper eyelid. This droop may be only slight or it may be enough to cover part, or all the eye. It can affect one or both upper eyelids.

What causes ptosis?

In **adults**

- The commonest cause is as a result of ageing. There is a muscle and tendon within the eyelid which acts to lift the eyelid. This may become stretched resulting in ptosis.
- Following an injury or previous surgery to the eye.
- From long term contact lens wear.
- As a complication of another disease involving the eyelid muscle or its nerve supply, e.g. stroke, myasthenia gravis or diabetes.



In **children**

- Ptosis can be present at birth (congenital ptosis) as a result of abnormal development of the eyelid lifting muscle itself.
- Ptosis in children may also be caused by eye movement abnormalities or diseases affecting the muscle or nerve of the eyelid.

What are the signs and symptoms of ptosis?

- Patients may complain of the cosmetic problem of a drooping upper lid.
- The droopy eyelid may obstruct the upper field of vision.
- Patients may tip their head back or raise their eyebrows in an effort to raise their lids, occasionally leading to headache.
- Ptosis in very young children, may lead to abnormal development of vision, causing a lazy eye (amblyopia)

How is ptosis treated?

Treatment may include the following:-

- Investigations e.g. blood tests. To determine the cause of the ptosis.
- Surgery to lift the position of the eyelid.
- The operation is usually done as a day case procedure under local anaesthetic for adults. Surgery performed in young children is usually done under general anaesthesia.
- The type of operation performed is dependent on the type and severity of ptosis.

- However, the vast majority of ptosis surgery takes on average 20-40 minutes per eyelid treated. The incision is hidden within the normal skin crease of the eyelid resulting in scarless minimally invasive operation. Recovery times are very quick with many patients achieving complete recovery within 6 days.

Do you have any questions?

Write them down here and bring this with you if you have to come for any treatment of your ptosis.

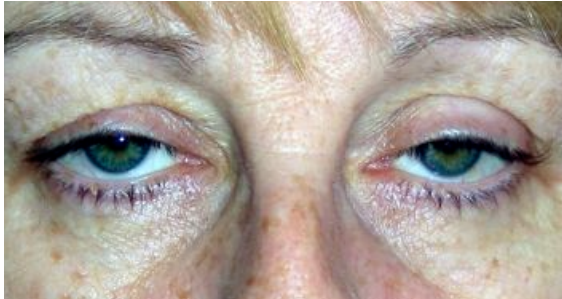
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Ptosis: Drooping of upper eyelids



Before (above) and **after** (below)
ptosis surgery