



Upper and Lower Eyelid Blepharoplasty by Dr David Ross Plastic Surgeon

Upper eyelid surgery is a procedure that can make the greatest single difference to the appearance of facial ageing. For a relatively quick and straight forward technique, there is no other cosmetic surgery procedure which achieves as impressive a rejuvenating effect as upper eyelid blepharoplasty. The removal of excessive skin from the upper eyelid and reshaping of the upper eyelid contour can lead enhancement and rejuvenation of the eyes to look alert and youthful. Dr Ross undertakes this procedure using the anchor blepharoplasty technique.

The procedure can be undertaken as a day surgery case, under general anaesthetic or local anaesthetic and sedation. In this procedure only minimal periorbital fat is removed, but both redundant skin and underlying muscle is then excised from the upper eyelid. The eyelid contour is then recreated by anchoring these structures to the underlying support layer to give a natural shape highlighting the fresh youthful appearance of the eye. Following surgery there may be some swelling and bruising but this should settle rapidly, sutures are removed after 5-7 days and there should be virtually no evidence of surgery after two weeks. Most patients can resume their daily activities after two to three days.

Lower Eyelid Blepharoplasty

This procedure is beneficial for removing loose or wrinkled lower eyelid

skin that develops as a result of facial ageing. It is also beneficial in removing fat bulges below the lower eyelid. This procedure can be performed in isolation or in conjunction with another facial rejuvenation procedure, like an upper eyelid blepharoplasty or midface lift. It will have a significant rejuvenating effect in removing many of the facial expression lines and bulges around the eyes that cause shadowing and ageing, resulting in a refreshed and enhanced facial appearance. Dr Ross undertakes two types of lower eyelid blepharoplasty procedures, transconjunctival blepharoplasty and open lower eyelid blepharoplasty. The transconjunctival blepharoplasty is indicated for patients with fat bulges only below the lower eyelid without redundant skin. The procedure is performed under general anaesthesia, through the lower eye socket without an incision into the skin. The bulging lower eyelid fat is carefully removed maintaining the lower eyelid integrity correcting the lower eyelid contour deformity. Open blepharoplasty involves elevation of the lower eyelid through an incision along the lower eyelash. The underlying periorbital fat is then either removed or repositioned and the lower eyelid skin redraped and tightened to leave a more youthful and vital lower eyelid appearance. Also it is possible in some cases to undertake a midface or cheek lift through the lower eyelid incision to avoid the need for a separate facelift incision. Dr Ross would be happy to discuss this possibility with you if you are interested in pursuing this surgical option.

Recovery for lower eyelid surgery is usually quite quick, although there may be some swelling and bruising in the first couple of days. This usually settles after 3-4 days and the sutures are removed after 5-7 days. We usually recommend taping of the lower eyelids for support in the first 2-3 weeks following surgery. We have found that witch hazel ointment applied to the eyelids in the early postoperative period can help to control swelling and stinging early in the postoperative period. Most patients can resume their daily activities after 5 to 7 days.

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