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ECTROPION

Ectropion is an outwardly turned eyelid. This leaves the eye exposed and dry, and can lead to eye infections, corneal abrasions, redness, light sensitivity, excessive tearing, and even decreased vision. The cause is usually the result of tissue relaxation with aging, but it can also occur with facial nerve paralysis (Bell's palsy), trauma, scarring, or previous surgeries.

Symptoms can be temporarily relieved with artificial tears and ointments to lubricate the eye. Surgery allows a permanent correction. When the condition is due to laxity, most surgeons will shorten the eyelid through a small incision at the outer corner of the eyelids. In cases where there is scarring from trauma or previous surgery, more complex procedures, such as a skin graft, may be required. Surgery is performed in an outpatient setting under local anesthesia alone or with I.V. sedation.