

## **Patient information factsheet**

### **Brow lift**

#### **What is brow ptosis?**

Brow ptosis (pronounced toe-sys) is a droop of the eyebrow. This can cause significant overhang of upper eyelid skin over the lashes, which can interfere with the vision. This can occur on one side or both.

#### **What causes brow ptosis?**

Brow ptosis generally occurs due to ageing changes in the face and can occur alongside eyelid ptosis (drooping upper lid) and excess upper lid skin. Occasionally brow ptosis is due to a facial palsy.

#### **When is brow lift surgery performed?**

Brow lift surgery can be performed on the NHS when the brow droop is affecting vision or the ability to open the eyelids. It cannot be done on the NHS if it is just a cosmetic problem.

#### **What happens at brow lift surgery?**

##### **1. Direct brow lift**

A crescent of forehead skin is removed from above the eyebrow and the wound sutured back together. It leaves a scar either just above the eyebrow or in a natural forehead crease. This operation is often recommended for patients with facial palsy.

##### **2. Trans-eyelid brow lift**

If the patient needs surgery to remove excess upper lid skin, then the brow lift can be done through the same eyelid incision. Sutures are placed beneath the brow to attach it to deeper tissues. This type of surgery only lifts the brow a little.

##### **3. Endoscopic brow lift**

Surgery is done through a few small incisions in the scalp, above the hairline. A tunnel is made underneath the forehead to free up all the ligament holding it down and sutures or fixation plates are used to lift the

brow. This surgery is usually done under general anaesthesia (asleep) by the plastic surgeons and may be more suitable for younger patients.

### **What happens after brow ptosis surgery?**

A dressing is placed on the forehead, sometimes with a bandage around the head to reduce bruising. Eye drops and ointment are used for a few weeks. The sutures may absorb away by themselves after several weeks or may need to be removed after a week.

### **What are the risks of brow lift?**

- Bruising and swelling
- Blurred vision for a few days from dry eyes or ointment
- Brows being at uneven height
- Gradual drooping of the brows which may require further surgery
- Loss of sensation on the forehead and up into the scalp. This often recovers but is sometimes permanent.
- New onset of facial nerve paralysis (facial palsy)
- Loss of hair at the incision sites in endoscopic brow lift
- Prominent forehead scar

If you have any queries following your treatment, please contact us on the following telephone numbers:

Eye short stay unit 023 8120 8600

Eye Casualty 023 8120 6592 (Anytime - 24 hour service)

**For a translation of this document, an interpreter or a version in large print, Braille or on audio tape, please telephone 023 8120 4688.**