

Droopy Eyelids

There are two main types of conditions that cause droopy eyelids: ptosis and dermatochalasis. Ptosis is when the eyelid margin is lower, usually as a result of a weakened eyelid muscle called the levator muscle.

Ptosis in adults usually is caused by the levator muscle separating or stretching from its insertion. Ptosis in adults often occurs after eye surgery, trauma, or after many years of wearing gas permeable contact lenses. The procedure for ptosis surgery involves reattaching and strengthening the levator muscle.

Dermatochalasis is when excess skin and fatty tissue of the upper eyelid hangs down and can cause weight on your lashes, headaches, and visual obstruction. Dermatochalasis occurs over time and is often associated with a genetic predisposition.

The treatment of dermatochalasis is called a blepharoplasty. Blepharoplasty involves the removal of excess skin and fatty tissue. If you are interested in eyelid surgery, we would be happy to refer you to a specialist we would recommend.

While ptosis and dermatochalasis do not cause damage to the eye, they both can impair visual function. Both of these surgeries can also be performed for aesthetic reasons. However, if your visual function is impaired, the surgery to correct your eyelids can be covered by your medical insurance. The risks of ptosis and dermatochalasis surgery include but are not limited to bleeding, infection, eyelid asymmetry, dry eye, and vision loss.

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