

Turned-In Eyelid (Entropion)



What Is Entropion?

Entropion is when the eyelid turns inward, causing the eyelashes to rub against the surface of the eye. This can lead to:

- Eye redness or irritation
- Tearing or discharge
- Light sensitivity
- A feeling like something is in the eye
- Pain or blurry vision

If left untreated, it can cause corneal damage and long-term vision problems.

What Causes It?

Entropion often develops with aging, when the eyelid muscles and tendons become loose. Other causes may include:

- Facial muscle weakness
- Eyelid spasms or forceful blinking
- Scarring from injury or past surgeries
- Certain neurologic or inflammatory conditions

How Is It Treated?

Temporary Relief

Before surgery, the eye can be protected using:

- Lubricating ointments or drops
- Medical tape to hold the eyelid in position
- Botulinum toxin (in some cases) to relax the eyelid temporarily

Surgical Repair

Surgery is the most effective way to fix entropion. It's usually done as an outpatient procedure under local anesthesia, sometimes with light sedation.

The surgeon tightens the eyelid and its attachments to turn it back into its proper position.

Most patients notice quick relief and minimal discomfort after surgery. You may be asked to use antibiotic ointment for about a week.

Risks and Considerations

As with any surgery, risks are low but may include:

- Bruising or swelling (usually goes away in 1–2 weeks)
- Bleeding or infection (rare)
- Eyelid shape changes or need for further treatment

Let your doctor know if you take blood thinners, as these can increase the risk of bleeding.

No surgery can guarantee perfect results, but the goal is to protect your eye and improve comfort and vision.

Summary

Entropion can cause irritation, tearing, and damage to the eye if not treated. Your oculofacial plastic surgeon will explain the treatment options and help restore your eyelid to a healthier, more comfortable position.

The Oculofacial Society is the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (ASOPRS) public-facing website for patients and referring physicians. To learn more about the services provided by ASOPRS members, visit [oculofacialsociety.org](https://www.oculofacialsociety.org).

ASOPRS is a professional medical society dedicated to advancing education, research, and the quality of clinical practice in aesthetic, plastic, and reconstructive surgery of the face, orbits, eyelids, and lacrimal system.