

Ptosis Repair

This material will help you understand ptosis and how it is treated.

What is ptosis?

Ptosis (pronounced “toe-sis”) is drooping of one or both upper eyelids. Your eyelid may droop only slightly, or it can cover most of your eye. This may make it difficult for you to see.

How is ptosis treated?

The treatment for ptosis often involves surgery. The goal of surgery is to lift the eyelid so that vision is not blocked. The type of surgery depends on the cause of your ptosis and on how much the eyelids droop. Surgery to repair ptosis usually involves tightening/shortening the muscles that lift the eyelid. If your muscle is very weak, the surgeon may perform a “sling” operation. After this type of surgery, the forehead muscles are used to lift the eyelid.

What should I expect before the surgery?

Before you have surgery to treat ptosis, your eye doctor will measure how much your eyelid droops. Your doctor will also discuss what you hope to gain from the surgery (improvements in vision, appearance, or both). This will help the doctor choose a surgical technique and plan the surgery. Your doctor may also talk to you about if you have any issues with dry eyes, as ptosis repair may worsen symptoms of dry eye.

The operating room will call you 24 hours prior to surgery to give you your surgical time. The operating room nurse will go over any questions you may have and tell you what time you will need to stop eating and drinking to prepare for surgery. The nurse will also let you know if you should not take any of your regular morning medications. If s/he does not say *not* to take one

of your morning medications, you can assume that you should take all of your regular morning medications with small sips of water but without anything to eat.

What should I expect on the day of surgery?

Surgery to repair ptosis is usually performed as an outpatient procedure. You may be given local anesthesia and a light sedation. Some patients, especially young children, are given general anesthesia during the surgery.

Be sure to arrange a responsible adult to come with you, wait during surgery, and go back home with you. This person may stay with you until you are brought into the operating room.

What should I expect after surgery?

Like all surgeries, there are some risks to a ptosis repair. Some minor bruising and swelling is normal after surgery and should go away within 1 to 2 weeks. You may find it difficult to completely close your eyelids after surgery. This is usually temporary. You can use eye drops and ointment to help keep your eyes lubricated. Serious risks like bleeding and infection are rare. Talk to your doctor about any concerns you have about the surgery.

For more information, scan this code with your smartphone or visit the website listed.



<http://www.asoprs.org/files/public/New.InfoPtosis.pdf>

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