

# MR DAVID CHEUNG

## Consultant Ophthalmic and Oculoplastic Surgeon

### Contact Info

**NHS:** Sandwell General Hospital, Birmingham PA: Denise Kaur 0121 507 3165  
Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley : PA Jo Gough: 01384 244811

**Private Patients:** The Edgbaston Hospital, Birmingham: General 0121 456 2000, Appointments 0121 452 2810  
West Midlands Hospital, Halesowen: General 01384 560123, Appointments 01384 880174  
PA Liz Carter 01384 632636

**Website:** [www.mrdavidcheung.com](http://www.mrdavidcheung.com)

## Ectropion/ Out turning Eyelids

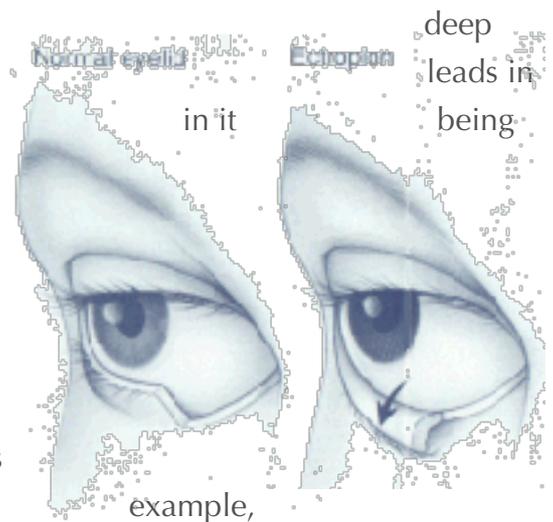
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### What is an Ectropion?

Ectropion refers to when the eyelid (usually lower) no longer lies snugly against the eyeball and starts to turn outwards away from the eyeball.

### What causes ectropion?

- Ageing: As we grow older the tendons of the lower eyelid, which normally keep the eyelid taut against the eyeball, can start to loosen resulting in laxity of the eyelid itself. Furthermore, the cheek can start to descend due to the loosening of its attachments from the underlying cheek bone. This increased downward pull on the lower eyelid resulting pulled downwards and outwards.
- A blocked tear duct: Sometimes prolonged watering of the eye can cause sufficient irritation of the eyelid skin leading to tightening of the skin. This in turn leads to downward tension on the eyelid causing it to turn outwards.
- Scarring of the skin around the eyelid can cause the lids to turn outwards. There are many causes of scarring, for burns, chemical splashes, certain skin diseases.
- Damage to the facial nerve can result in weakness of the muscles of the lower eyelid, leading to ectropion.



**What are the signs and symptoms of ectropion?**

- Watering of the eye
- Dryness and irritation of the eye.
- Redness of the eyeball and the back surface of the eyelid
- Sensitivity to wind and light.
- Outward turning lower eyelid.
- Recurrent infection of the eye- For this reason eyelid ectropions ideally have to be corrected before cataract surgery to minimise the risk of endophthalmitis (severe infection inside the eye)

**How is an ectropion treated?**

The only treatment involves surgery

For most patients, surgery is fairly straightforward and will involve procedures to tighten and rotate the tendons of the they eyelid to restore the eyelid back to its normal position against the eyeball.

However for more severe types of ectropion where there is actual excessive tightness of the skin or other tissues causing undue tension on the eyelid, more extensive surgery may be necessary to relieve some of this excess tension. This may involve surgery to introduce extra skin from another part of your body to relieve some of this skin shortage such as a skin grafting or using skin flaps.

Most operations can be done quite comfortably and quickly using a local anaesthetic injection as a day case procedure.

**Risks**

The chances of things going awry following ectropion surgery are low but like any operation, complications may occur. These include:

Recurrence of the ectropion

Wound Infection

Wound dehiscence

Overcorrection

Scarring

Poor cosmetic result

Scarring of the skin