



Blepharoplasty

As we age, the delicate skin around the eyes can appear puffy or saggy. Eyelid skin stretches, muscles weaken, and the normal deposits of protective fat around the eye bulge. The surgical procedure to remove excess eyelid tissues (skin, muscle, or fat) is called a blepharoplasty.

Blepharoplasty can be performed on the upper eyelid, lower eyelid, or both. The surgery is performed for either cosmetic or functional reasons. Sometimes excess upper eyelid tissue obstructs the upper visual field or can weigh down the eyelid and produce tired-feeling eyes. Some people may choose to do a blepharoplasty to improve their appearance by making the area around their eyes firmer. When blepharoplasty is performed to improve vision, rather than for cosmetic reasons only, it may be covered by insurance. A visual field test is performed before surgery to get a better understanding of how vision is hindered by drooping lids and if your insurance will cover the surgery. Blepharoplasty for the lower lid removes the large bags under the eyes. It is unusual for third party payers to cover lower lid blepharoplasty.

The surgery is usually performed on an outpatient basis. Dr. Currier will follow insurance guidelines, performing a blepharoplasty on one eye at a time. A local anesthetic injection is given so the patient will be relaxed and not feel any incisions. Incisions are closed with fine sutures that follow your body's natural creases to make the procedure look as natural as can be. A pressure patch is then applied for 5-10 minutes, and later in the day, ice maybe used to apply direct pressure to ward off bruising and swelling.

Swelling, bruising, and blurry vision are common after blepharoplasty. Stitches are removed 5-7 days after surgery.

Possible complications associated with a blepharoplasty include bleeding and swelling, delayed healing, infection, drooping of upper or lower eyelid, asymmetry, double vision, and dry eye. It is important to refrain from heavy lifting or excessive bending over before the incision has time to scab over. Doing strenuous activities applies pressure to the area and increases chances of bruising, bleeding, and swelling. It is important to note that the puffiness of the fat pockets may not return, but normal wrinkling and aging of the eye area will continue. Results will vary from patient to patient.