Blepharoplasty
(Cosmetic Eyelid Surgery)

Cosmetic surgery to fix baggy eyelids is called a blepharoplasty. Getting baggy eyelids as we grow older is a natural part of aging. It comes as we lose the elasticity in our tissues. Sometimes this problem is fixed because the eyelids are interfering with vision. Other times the surgery is done for cosmetic reasons. Cosmetic surgery is done to improve appearance. It hopefully makes the eyes look younger and better. Blepharoplasty removes the extra skin from the eyelid. It is taken either from the upper eyelid, the lower eyelid, or both. Then the surgeon stitches (*sutures*) the skin margins back together.

RISKS AND COMPLICATIONS

- Because of the loose tissue around the eye and the many small blood vessels, it is possible to have some bruising around the eye following this surgery. This means you may get a black eye. This usually gets better within several days.
- The possibility of infection is always present as with any surgical procedure.
- A more severe problem occurs when too much skin is removed and the eyelid involved turns outward (*ectropian*). When this happens, the tears may no longer go down the tear duct normally, they may instead spill down your cheek. When this happens, further surgery may be required to correct it.
- A severe complication would be loss of eyesight. This is very uncommon with this procedure.

All surgeries carry risks, even when performed under the best of conditions. Be sure to:

- Consider surgery carefully.
- Proceed with caution.
- Be fully informed.
- Follow your caregiver's instructions before and after surgery.

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