

# Informed Consent – Blepharoplasty

**General Information** - Blepharoplasty is a surgical procedure to remove excess skin from the eyelids. Underlying fatty tissue can be removed or repositioned as well. It will not erase evidence of one's racial or ethnic heritage. It will not remove "crows feet", dark circles or bags or lift sagging eye brows.

**Alternative Treatments** – not having the surgery, elevating the brows to help elevate the sagging tissue on the lids, and temporary benefits from skin resurfacing, all with other risks and potential complications

## Specific Risks of Blepharoplasty Surgery

**Blindness** – caused by unrecognized internal bleeding around the eye or direct trauma

**Dry Eye Problems** – decreased tear production can occur after blepharoplasty but this is rare and unpredictable

**Ectropion** – displacement of the lower lid away from the globe is a rare complication and surgery may be necessary to correct this

**Corneal Exposure Problems** – due to difficulty closing the lids completely and more common with aggressive upper lid procedures; eye drops will temporize this but surgery may be required to resolve the problem

**Eyelash and Brow Hair Loss** – lashes and brows may be burned or injured from procedures and usually will grow back if it happens

**Persistent Fat Pads** – these can persist and if present, additional interventions will be required to resolve it

**Conjunctival Edema** – swelling of the lining over the eyeball can occur but this is a self-limiting problem and does resolve with minimal interventions

Disclaimer: Informed-consent documents are used to communicate information about the proposed surgical treatment of a disease or condition along with disclosure of risks and alternative forms of treatment(s), including not having surgery. The informed-consent process attempts to define principles of risk disclosure that should generally meet the needs of most patients in most circumstances. This should not be considered all inclusive in defining other methods of care and risks encountered. This is not intended to define or serve as the standard of medical care.