

### **What is ectropion:**

This is a condition (generally) of the lower eyelid in which the eye lid sags down and /or turns outwards.

### **Why does it occur:**

It is most commonly as a result of loosening of tissues with age. Sometimes there is skin contraction and other factors play a role too. Other causes are injury, paralysis e.g. Bell's Palsy etc.

### **What are the symptoms:**

Irritation, discomfort, redness and watering of the eye. There is also a risk of corneal complications due to inadequate protection. Mild cases may not cause any symptoms.

### **What is the treatment:**

Most cases need a surgical correction which involves tightening and in-turning of the eye lid to bring it into a normal position.

### **Ectropion Surgery:**

The operation is performed generally under a local anaesthetic as a day procedure. Depending on the severity and the cause of the ectropion, a combination of one or more of tightening, shortening, suturing to achieve in turning, skin graft etc. may be necessary.

Post operatively the eye is patched overnight and later an ointment and eye drops will need to be applied for a period of few weeks.

### **Complications:**

- Bleeding in the first 48 hours or so.
- Bruising and swelling is temporary and resolves in a week or two.
- Infection in the wound or sutures that may require antibiotics treatment.
- Over or under correction can occur.
- Recurrence can occur in the long term.