

Ptosis Surgery

The word ptosis (pronounced toe' sis) means downward displacement. In ophthalmology, it refers to a drooping upper eyelid. Ptosis surgery is used to correct ptosis and is also called an 'eyelid lift.'

Ptosis may occur for several reasons, including disease, injury, birth defect, eye surgery and age. In many cases, the cause is a weakness of the levator muscle that raises your eyelid or a problem with the nerve that sends messages to the levator muscle. This condition does not improve with time, so when an eyelid sags to the point where your vision is partially blocked, we use surgery to tighten the levator muscle. In severe ptosis, when the levator is extremely weak, we can attach or suspend your eyelid under the eyebrow so that the forehead muscles do the work of lifting the lid.

We usually perform ptosis surgery under local anesthesia in our outpatient surgical center. The surgery takes approximately one hour, and the incision and scar is hidden in your eyelid crease.

The risks of ptosis surgery are the same as with most any eye surgery - infection, bleeding and reduced vision - but we only rarely see complications. Immediately after surgery, some patients find it difficult to close the affected eye, but this is temporary.