

GENERAL INFORMATION

RECONSTRUCTIVE EYE SURGERY



WHAT IS RECONSTRUCTIVE EYE SURGERY?

Reconstructive eye surgery (or oculoplastics) refers to any surgical procedure around the eye socket, eyelid, tear ducts and the face.

It includes reconstruction of the eye and surrounding structures, and is used to treat a range of problems, including droopy eyelids, tumours (e.g. basal cell carcinomas) and blocked tear ducts.

**RECONSTRUCTIVE EYE
SURGERY IS ALSO KNOWN
AS OCULOPLASTICS.**



WHAT CONDITIONS ARE TREATED WITH RECONSTRUCTIVE EYE SURGERY?

EYELID LESIONS AND TUMOURS

This surgery involves removing the lesion or tumour, followed by reconstruction of the eyelids using skin flaps and grafts to restore function and improve the cosmetic appearance. A local anaesthetic is generally adequate for this type of procedure.

Large skin cancers may require a team approach with a plastic surgeon or dermatologist who specialises in this area.

DROOPING EYELIDS (PTOSIS)

Ptosis, or drooping of the eyelid, can be present at birth (congenital ptosis) or develop later in life (involutional ptosis). It may reduce your ability to see, sometimes causing full vision impairment.

Surgery can help improve the appearance of the eye and restore vision. This usually involves shortening and strengthening the muscle responsible for opening the eyelid.

Adults can have the surgery performed under local anaesthetic. Surgery can be performed on children from the age of three or four years under general anaesthesia (please note we do not currently offer this service for children).

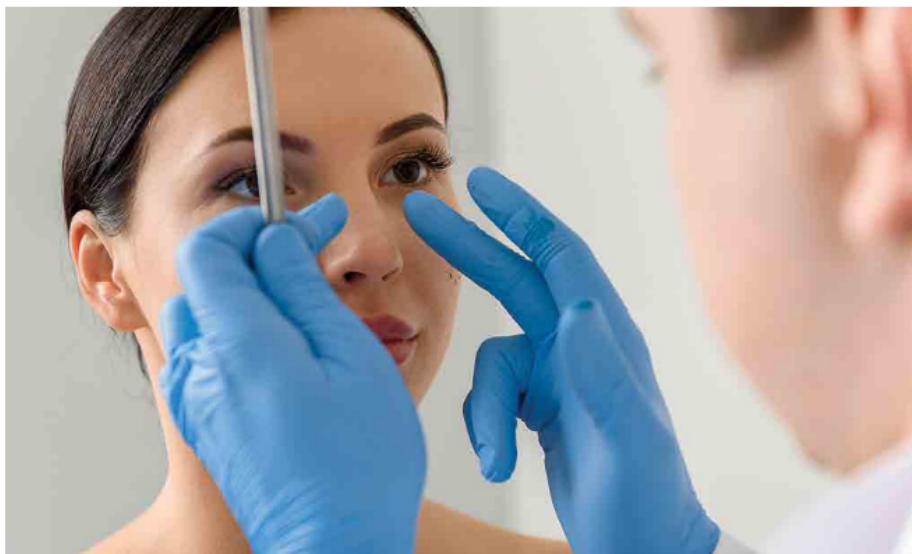
An eyelid lift (blepharoplasty) can also be performed for medical and cosmetic reasons to treat drooping eyelids, as well as hooded eyelids and baggy eyelids. The procedure involves removing excess skin to lift the eyelids. A Medicare rebate may apply if the surgery is for functional reasons. Cosmetic eyelid lifts do not attract a Medicare rebate.



BLOCKED TEAR DUCTS

Normally, tears drain away from the eye through the tear duct (also called nasolacrimal duct). If the duct is too narrow or becomes blocked (e.g. through swelling or inflammation), the tears build-up and eventually flow down onto the face.

This excessive tearing or watering can be corrected with surgery to bypass the obstruction. Under local or general anaesthetic, a new passage is created to bypass the obstruction and allow the fluid to drain into the nose.



COSMETIC EYELID LIFTS DO NOT ATTRACT A MEDICARE REBATE.

FAQs



How much does reconstructive eye surgery cost?

The cost of reconstructive surgery will depend on the condition being treated. A Medicare rebate may apply if the surgery is for functional reasons. Cosmetic eyelid lifts do not attract a Medicare rebate.

Your surgeon will discuss the costs with you prior to surgery. If you have private health insurance, please contact your insurer to find out what level of cover you have and whether they will cover any costs.

Who performs reconstructive eye surgery?

Ophthalmologists who have completed further training in oculoplastic surgery perform plastic surgery of the structures around the eye – e.g. the eye socket (orbital surgery), around the eyeball (periocular surgery), the tear drainage system (lacrimal surgery) and the eyelid (blepharoplasty).



MOST OCULOPLASTIC SURGICAL PROCEDURES ARE PERFORMED UNDER LOCAL ANAESTHETIC IN A DAY SURGERY.

COMPREHENSIVE EYE CARE

Vision Eye Institute is the leading provider of ophthalmic services in Australia. Our team of highly regarded doctors includes general ophthalmologists as well as those who specialise in specific areas/conditions of the eye.

LASER EYE SURGERY		CATARACT & LENS SURGERY	
GLAUCOMA		DIABETIC EYE DISEASE	
MACULAR DEGENERATION		RETINAL CONDITIONS	
KERATOCONUS		DRY EYE	
PTERYGIUM		CORNEAL TRANSPLANTATION	
CORNEAL CONDITIONS		NERVE-RELATED VISION PROBLEMS	
RECONSTRUCTIVE EYE SURGERY		CHILDREN'S EYE HEALTH	
GENERAL EYE HEALTH			

RECONSTRUCTIVE EYE SURGERY SERVICES

Some of the services mentioned in this brochure are offered at Vision Eye Institute clinics. For more information or to find a clinic with oculoplastic surgeons, visit:
visioneyeinstitute.com.au/services/oculoplastics/

All medical and surgical procedures have potential complications. Check with your doctor before proceeding.



visioneyeinstitute.com.au

