

Policy title	Blepharoplasty and brow lift (eyelid and brow surgery) v1.1
Policy position	Criteria Based Access
Date of Forum recommendation	February 2018

Dermatochalasis is a term used to describe the presence of loose and redundant eyelid skin. It is a common condition with aging as this leads to weakening of the connective tissue and loss of skin elasticity.

Blepharoplasty refers to eyelid reduction, a procedure to remove excess skin or fat from the eyelids. A brow lift, or forehead lift, is an operation to smooth the area from your eye brows to your hairline.

Eyelid surgery or brow lift is **not normally funded** for cosmetic reasons alone.

Referral for specialist opinion for surgery for dermatochalasis (upper eyelid skin) will be funded when the patient meets all of the following criteria:

1. Patient has documented complaints of interference with vision or visual field related activities such as difficulty reading or driving due to upper eye lid skin drooping, looking through the eyelids or seeing the upper eye lid skin.
2. There is redundant skin overhanging the upper eye lid margin and resting on the eyelashes when gazing straight ahead - with photographic evidence to support this.
3. Evidence from visual field testing that eyelids impinge on visual fields reducing field to 120° laterally and/or 20° or less superiorly.

Blepharoplasty for excess lower eyelid skin as the sole procedure is **not normally funded**.

Referral for specialist opinion for surgery for brow ptosis (drooping of eyebrow) will be funded when the patient meets all of the following criteria:

1. Patient has documented complaints of interference with vision or visual field related activities such as difficulty reading or driving due to eyebrow drooping whereby patient must constantly raise eyebrows to see.
2. In the resting position, there is significant eyebrow drooping affecting the upper eyelid position - with photographic evidence to support this.
3. Evidence from visual field testing that eyelids impinge on visual fields reducing field to 120° laterally and/or 20° or less superiorly.

For Dysthyroid eye disease please refer to Dysthyroid eye disease policy.

NOTE:

- This policy will be reviewed in the light of new evidence or new national guidance e.g. from NICE
- Where a patient does not meet the policy criteria or the intervention is not normally funded by the NHS, an application for clinical exceptionality can be considered via the ICB's Individual Funding Request (IFR) Policy and Process

Clinical coding:

C13.- Excision of redundant skin of eyelid

S01.4 Browlift NEC

S01.5 Direct brow lift

S01.6 Internal Brow lift

Key words: Dermatochalasis, brow ptosis, blepharoplasty, eyelid surgery, brow surgery