

Blepharoplasty, Brow lift and ptosis correction (for Dermatochalasis, Brow Ptosis and Blepharoptosis)

Policy

Blepharoplasty, brow lift and ptosis correction will be funded by NWL CCGs for dermatochalasis, brow ptosis and blepharoptosis if the following criteria are met:

- 1) Functional impairment and significant symptoms: ALL of the following criteria must be met:
 - Patient must constantly raise eyebrows to see
 - In the resting position (with eyebrows not raised) eyelids cause significant visual field obstruction leading to functional impairment
 - Clinician has specific concerns about eye or eyelid function/appearance

- 2) Supporting information:
 - The visual field obstruction has been validated with a 120 degree visual field test and attached to this PPWT form (Mandatory)

NB. Clinicians may also submit clinical photography as supporting information if patient's consent has been granted (optional)

Please note that **the following indications for eye lid surgery are out of scope of this PPWT policy** as they are routinely provided under contract:

- Reconstructive surgery
- Trauma
- Dysthyroid eye disease
- Third nerve palsy
- Myasthenia gravis
- Myopathy
- Post-cancer reconstruction
- Entropion and ectropion correction

If there is clinical suspicion of malignancy, patients should be referred using the cancer referral pathway.

Note: Patients who smoke should have attempted to stop smoking 8 to 12 weeks before referral to reduce the risk of surgery and the risk of post-surgery complications. Patients should be routinely offered referral to smoking cessation services to reduce these surgical risks.

These policies have been approved by the eight Clinical Commissioning Groups in North West London (NHS Brent CCG, NHS Central London CCG, NHS Ealing CCG, NHS Hammersmith and Fulham CCG, NHS Harrow CCG, NHS Hillingdon CCG, NHS Hounslow CCG and NHS West London CCG).

Background

Blepharoplasty is a surgical procedure performed on the eye lids. It can be performed on its own or in combination with other procedures on the face.

There are many conditions that may require eye lid surgery. Examples are set out as below:

- Reconstruction surgery
- Trauma
- Dysthyroid eye disease
- 3rd Nerve palsy
- Myasthenia gravis
- Myopathy affecting the eye lid
- Dermatochalasis
- Brow Ptosis

Dermatochalasis and brow ptosis have historically been considered as cosmetic issues, as dermatochalasis and brow ptosis are iatrogenic conditions which occur with the aging process. However in severe cases, these conditions can cause visual impairment. In particular, in elderly patients, these conditions can increase the risk of falls, as well as affecting activity of daily living such as reading, driving or using a computer.

Visual field tests can be a useful test to assess the deficit in a patient's visual field, with the Humphries visual field test being the most commonly used.

The majority of ophthalmologists conduct this test prior to surgery to elicit the deficit of the patient's vision. It is however, not always a fully reliable test. The test can be affected by the time of day the patient does the test, for example if done later in the evening, the result could show a worse result as the eye lids tend to tire. The test itself is also operator dependent, where false positive results and false negative results occur.

Providers may also choose to supply clinical pictures to support applications for funding to help validating visual field tests and descriptions of visual impairment affecting the patient.

Useful definitions

Dermatochalasis: fine wrinkling and loosening of the eyelid skin.

Ectropion: a medical condition in which the lower eyelid turns outwards.

Entropion: a medical condition in which the eyelids fold inward.

Blepharochalasis: relaxation of the skin of the eyelid due to recurrent oedema.

Blepharoplasty: a surgical procedure in which redundant tissue of skin, muscle or fat are excised from the upper or lower eyelid.

Brow ptosis: a condition in which the eyebrow droops or sags.

Visual field: the total area where objects can be seen in the peripheral vision while the eye is focused on a central point.

Visual Field Test: measures how much 'side' vision a person has. Other names for this test may include Goldmann visual field exam, or Humphrey field exam.

Patient information / References

Link to Patient information

Information about the procedure

<http://www.uhs.nhs.uk/Media/Controlleddocuments/Patientinformation/Eyes/Blepharoplasty-patientinformation.pdf>

Visual Field test information:

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003879.htm>

References

Correlation of the Vision-related Functional Impairment Associated with Blepharoptosis and the Impact of Blepharoptosis Surgery, *Thomas J. Federici, et al*

Brow ptosis: are we measuring the right thing? The impact of surgery and the correlation of objective and subjective measures with postoperative improvement in quality-of-life, F Mellington and R Khooshabeh