

DEFINITION

1. **Ectropion** is the term applied to sagging and eversion, or outward turning, of the eyelid, usually the lower. It occurs in four forms, namely involutional (senile), cicatricial, congenital and paralytic.

CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS

2. The symptoms are due to epiphora (tears leaking from the eye) and chronic conjunctivitis (irritation, lacrimation and conjunctival congestion). Longstanding cases may develop a keratitis due to exposure of the cornea.

AETIOLOGY**Involutional ectropion**

3. This is due to weakness of the orbicularis muscles, and laxity of the subcutaneous tissues and medial and lateral canthus tendons, as part of the ageing process.

Cicatricial ectropion

4. This is secondary to scarring, which may result from previous disease, tumours, trauma or burns.

Paralytic ectropion

5. This is secondary to diseases which cause weakness or paralysis of the orbicularis muscle. The commonest causes are facial nerve palsies: the condition is temporary when the paralysis is due to Bell's palsy, but is permanent when the facial nerve has been damaged, such as in parotid gland surgery.

Congenital Ectropion

6. This is a rare condition which affects both lower lids.

CONCLUSION

7. **Ectropion** is the condition of eversion of the eyelid which may result from other diseases or trauma, or it may be either congenital or part of the ageing process.

REFERENCE

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