

DEFINITION

1. **Entropion** is the term applied to inversion, or “rolling-in”, of the eyelid. It occurs in four forms, involutional (senile), acute spastic, cicatricial and congenital.

CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS

2. The symptoms are those of a foreign body continually present in the eye, namely, irritation, pain, lacrimation and conjunctival congestion.

AETIOLOGY**Involutional entropion**

3. This is the most common type of entropion and occurs as the result of age-related changes in the structures of the eyelid.

Spastic entropion

4. This is caused by spasm of the orbicularis muscle resulting from ocular irritation or essential blepharospasm (an idiopathic progressive involuntary spasms of the orbicularis muscle and upper facial muscles which typically presents in the 6th decade of life, affecting women more than men, and which may be precipitated by factors such as reading, driving, stress or bright light and relieved by others such as talking, walking and relaxation).

Cicatricial entropion

5. This is caused by the cicatricial contraction of the palpebral (eyelid) conjunctiva which pulls the lid margin towards the globe.
6. Many conditions cause cicatricial contraction, such as trachoma, blepharitis, the scars resulting from injuries, burns, operations or destructive inflammation such as diphtheria.

Congenital entropion

7. This is rare and thought to be due to improper development of the retractor aponeurosis insertion into the inferior border of the tarsal plate.

CONCLUSION

8. **Entropion** is a condition of inversion of the eyelids which occurs commonly in the elderly, may be congenital or associated with the presence of ocular disease and following trauma to the eyelids.

REFERENCES

Miller Stephen J H. Parsons' Diseases of the Eye. 18th Ed. 1990. Edinburgh. Churchill Livingstone. p357-360.

Kanski Jack J. Clinical Ophthalmology. 3rd Ed. 1984. Oxford. Butterworth Heinemann. p15-17.

September 1998