

Brow Lift (using endoscope)

This operation aims to lift the eyebrow and is done most commonly for people who notice excess skin on their upper eyelids. Sometimes it may only be done on one side. Often a brow lift is combined with a facelift or eyelid operations. The procedure is done under general anaesthesia and it takes about an hour to complete. The recovery from this alone would usually require a one night hospital stay. Post-operatively, the bruising which can be quite extensive, will take 2-4 weeks to settle down. There is often swelling around the eyes and this may impair upper eyelid movement. There will be bruising around the eye and surrounding area for several months.

The operation usually involves making three incisions in the hairline, one in the middle and one on either side. Through these incisions using endoscopic equipment and a camera, the forehead skin is lifted and then sutured to the bone. There are two methods of suturing skin to the bone. One involves using thick dissolving stitches that attach the deep surface of the skin to the bone through holes made in the bone. You may feel the stitches for 6-9 months. The second method involves using absorbable pins (Endotines), which are like hooks that are placed into the bone. The Endotines will take 6-12 months to completely dissolve and during that time you can feel them through the skin. Also there may be hair loss at the sites where the skin is tethered to the bone and this can occur with either procedure, but this is only temporary.

Sometimes there is a crease on the forehead that flattens after 2-3 months. Immediately after the procedure, the elevation of the brow looks slightly exaggerated. This is deliberate because with time the brow does drop slightly into a more natural position. Finally there may be some slight unevenness in the lower part of the forehead centrally (where the nose meets the eyebrows) but this does improve.

Apart from the temporary loss of hair over the temple line of incisions, there may be tenderness at the site of the insertion of the sutures or pegs into the bone. Some patients may experience headache type symptoms related to this and many patients may also notice some temporary numbness of the forehead skin, which is temporary and should resolve within six months.

- **We would ask you not to take any herbal or over the counter medicines prior to having a surgical procedure. Many Homeopathic chemists advocate arnica before surgery however this is quite harmful as it causes more bleeding during surgery.**
- **You will be given antibiotics during your surgery. Do remember that for women using the oral contraceptive, this will be less effective as a result of taking antibiotics, especially the oral ones. You will need an alternative form of contraception whilst taking the antibiotics and for seven days afterwards.**