

## Ptosis (Droopy Eyelids)

Ptosis refers to drooping of an upper eyelid of one or both eyes. The droop may be barely noticeable, or the lid can descend over the entire pupil. Ptosis happens in both children and adults, but usually occurs because of aging.



### Ptosis Symptoms and Signs

The most obvious sign of ptosis is the drooping eyelid. Depending on how severely the lid droops, people with ptosis may have difficulty seeing. Sometimes people tilt their heads back to try to see under the lid or raise their eyebrows repeatedly to try to lift the eyelids.

The degree of droopiness varies from one person to the next. If you think you may have ptosis, compare a recent photo of your face with one from 10 or 20 years ago, and you'll likely see a difference in the eyelid skin.

Ptosis can look similar to dermatochalasis, a group of connective tissue diseases that cause skin to hang in folds. These diseases are associated with less-than-normal elastic tissue formation. Your eye doctor should be able to tell whether or not this is the cause of your drooping eyelids.

### What Causes Ptosis?

Ptosis can be present at birth (congenital ptosis) or develop due to aging, injury or an aftereffect of cataract or other eye surgery.

This condition also can be caused by a problem with the muscles lifting the eyelid, called levators. Sometimes a person's facial anatomy causes difficulties with the levator muscles.

An eye tumor, neurological disorder or systemic disease like diabetes may result in drooping eyelids.

### Ptosis Treatment

Surgery usually is the best treatment for drooping eyelids. Dr. Lothes tightens levator muscles to lift eyelids, giving you improved vision and appearance. In very severe cases involving weakened levator muscles, your surgeon attaches the eyelid under the eyebrow. This allows the forehead muscles to substitute for levator muscles in lifting the eyelid. Eyelid surgery also is called blepharoplasty.

### Ptosis in Children

Children born with moderate or severe ptosis require treatment in order for proper vision to develop. Failure to treat ptosis can result in amblyopia (diminished vision in one eye) and a lifetime of poor vision.

All children with ptosis, even mild cases, should be examined by Dr Lothes every year. The eyes change shape as they grow, and sometimes focusing and visual problems develop, all because of the worsening ptosis.

*Want to learn more? Please call Dr. Lothes at (614) 841-9300 to set-up an examination and consultation.*

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