# Trichiasis

Need not lead to blindness!!!

**This need not happen!**

## What is trichiasis?

Trichiasis is when the eyelashes turn inward towards the eye and scratch the eye. All the lashes may turn in and rub, or it may be just a few eyelashes. The person with trichiasis usually feels pain, like something is in the eye

***Trichiasis is treatable.***

***Get surgery early. Don't wait!***

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## What causes trichiasis?

There can be many causes, but the most common cause is scarring in the eyelid due to repeated infections with trachoma. Other causes of trichiasis are burns, trauma to the eyelids, or leprosy.

## What are the effects of trichiasis?

If the eyelashes rub the eye for a long time, it leads to scarring of the cornea. The cornea is the clear window on the eye. If the cornea becomes scarred it is no longer clear and the eye cannot see.

## Does everyone with trichiasis become blind?

No. Blindness only occurs when the eyelashes cause a scratch on the cornea. Sometimes, only a few lashes can lead to damage to the corneal. If you get the trichiasis fixed (described below)

before the vision is damaged, blindness will be prevented.

## Who gets trichiasis?

Trichiasis can occur in all ages; however, this condition most common in adults. Women are more likely to have trichiasis than men.

## How can you treat trichiasis?

The best solution is to have a small surgery, called a "lid rotation." This operation can be done in a small clinic or health station, or even a schoolroom by a nurse or health assistant who has been specially trained. The operation consists of a small incision in the eyelid, followed by suturing. At the end of the operation the eyelashes are rotated away from the eyeball, back in a normal position.

Usually some of the sutures will be left for about a week, and then they will be removed. It is normal for the eyelid to be a little sore and red for a few days, but after a few weeks it will become normal.

## Can I solve the problem by pulling lashes myself?

The eyelashes that rub the eye can be removed with forceps, however they will grow back and rub the eye again. Furthermore, if they break off or are cut off the remaining lashes can be very sharp and easily damage the eye. Pulling lashes is not a good solution to the problem. Surgery is much better.

## Can trichiasis come back after surgery?

Yes, sometimes it can, because of long term damage to the lid. There is little that can be done to prevent trichiasis from coming back. If it does come back, you can have an operation again.

## Where can I go to have surgery?

The closest place you can go to get trichiasis surgery is:

The surgeon does surgery on the following days: