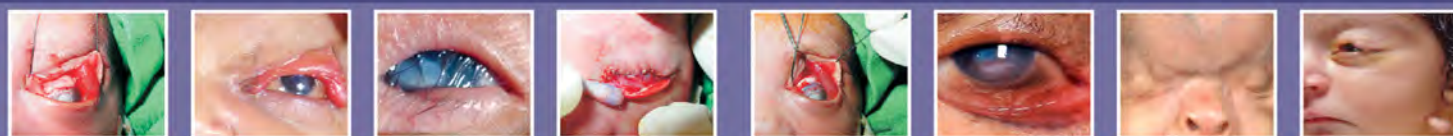


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Instant Clinical Diagnosis in Ophthalmology

Oculoplasty & Reconstructive Surgery

Editors

Jes Mortensen
Essam El Toukhy
Ranjit S Dhaliwal



Foreword
Mark R Levine

Contents

1. Congenital Eyelid Anomalies	1
<i>Roshmi Gupta, Ramesh Murthy, Savari Desai, Santosh G Honavar (India)</i>	
– Cryptophthalmos	2
– Lid Colobomas	4
– Microblepharon and Ablepharon	6
– Ankyloblepharon Filiforme Adnatum	8
– Medial Canthal Ectopia	9
– Epicanthus	10
– Centurion Syndrome	12
– Distichiasis	12
– Epiblepharon	14
– Congenital Entropion	14
– Tarsal Kink Syndrome	16
– Congenital Ectropion	18
– Euryblepharon	20
– Congenital Lid Retraction	20
– Congenital Ptosis	22
– Blepharophimosis Syndrome	24
2. Congenital Eyelid Anomalies	31
<i>AK Grover, Shaloo Bageja (India)</i>	
• Congenital Eyelid Abnormalities	32
– Cryptophthalmos	32
– Coloboma	34
– Ankyloblepharon	36
– Congenital Ectropion	38
– Congenital Entropion	38
– Epiblepharon	38
– Euryblepharon	42
– Epicanthus	42
– Telecanthus	44
– Congenital Ptosis	44
• Plication of Orbicularis Oculi for Ptosis	48
<i>Daljit Singh (India)</i>	
• Sutureless Conjunctival Route Plication of Levator Muscle for Ptosis	52
<i>Daljit Singh (India)</i>	
• Congenital Eyelids Deformities	58
<i>Kirit Mody (India)</i>	
– Fornix Reconstruction	58

3. Disorders of Eyelid	69
• Entropion–I	70
<i>Essam El Toukhy, Mohmed El Badri (Egypt)</i>	
– Congenital Entropion	70
– Spastic Entropion	72
– Cicatricial Entropion	72
– Involucional Entropion	74
• Entropion–II	80
<i>Ranjit S Dhaliwal (India)</i>	
• Ectropion	82
<i>Essam El Toukhy, Ali Saeed Odadi Assiri (Egypt)</i>	
4. Disorders of Eyelid	95
• Eyelid Retraction	96
<i>Tamer Gawdat, Essam El Toukhy (Egypt)</i>	
• External Ophthalmoplegia (3rd Nerve Involvement)	104
<i>Ranjit S Dhaliwal (India)</i>	
5. Lacrimal System Disorders (Congenital)	111
• Congenital Nasolacrimal Duct Obstruction	112
<i>Essam El Toukhy, Ibrahim Mosad (Egypt)</i>	
6. Lacrimal System Disorders (Acquired)	119
• Acquired Lacrimal Obstructions	120
<i>Hatem A Tawfik, Norlaila Talib, Essam El Toukhy (Egypt)</i>	
• Lacrimal Fistula	130
<i>Ranjit S Dhaliwal (India)</i>	
7. Diseases of Eyelids	133
• Diseases of Eyelids	134
<i>Ashok Garg, Ranjit S Dhaliwal (India)</i>	
– Style (Hordeolum Externum)	134
– Chalazion (Meibomian Cyst)	136
– Blepharitis	138
– Dermatitis	142
– Warts (Verruca Vulgaris)	144
– Molluscum Contagiosum	144
– Trichiasis	146
• Congenital Tumors	150
<i>AK Grover, Shaloo Bageja (India)</i>	
• Pigmented Lesions	150
– Naevi	150
– Naevus of Ota	150
– Portwine Stain	150
– Strawberry (Capillary) Hemangioma	150
– Dermoid and Epidermoid Cyst	152
– Plexiform Neurofibroma	152

• Management of Multiple Papilloma of the Lid Margin with Fugo Blade	156
<i>Daljit Singh (India)</i>	
8. Imaging of the Orbit	161
<i>Roshmi Gupta, Savari Desai, Santosh G Honavar (India)</i>	
• The Orbital Bones	164
– Osteoma	164
– Ossifying Fibroma	166
– Orbital Fracture	166
• Extraocular Muscles	170
– Thyroid Eye Disease	170
– Myositis	172
– Orbital Cysticercosis	174
• Extraconal Lesions of the Orbit	178
– Dermoid Cyst	178
– Sphenoid Wing Meningioma	180
– Lymphoproliferative Diseases of the Orbit	180
• Lacrimal Fossa Tumors: Pleomorphic Adenoma	184
• Orbital Invasion of Paranasal Sinus Disease	186
• Combined Intraconal and Extraconal Pathology	188
– Orbital Hemorrhage	188
– Lymphangioma	190
– Orbital Varix	192
• Intraconal Lesions of the Orbit	194
– Vascular Lesions of the Orbit	194
– Orbital Hemangioma	194
– Neurogenic Lesions of the Orbit	196
– Optic Nerve Sheath Meningioma	196
– Optic Nerve Glioma	198
• Extraocular Extension of Intraocular Tumor	202
• Optic Neuritis	202
9. Orbital Neoplasms	205
<i>Jes Mortensen (Sweden)</i>	
• Primary Tumors of the Orbit	208
– Orbital Lymphoma	208
– Squamous Cell Carcinoma	210
– Basal Cell Carcinoma	212
– Melanoma	216
– Merkel Cell Carcinoma	218
10. Orbital Disorders—Vascular Abnormalities	225
<i>AK Grover, Shaloo Bageja (India)</i>	
– Capillary Hemangioma	226
– Lymphangioma	228
– Cavernous Hemangioma	230
– Orbital Varices	230

11. Infections of Orbit	233
<i>Roshmi Gupta, Savari Desai, Santosh G Honavar (India)</i>	
• Bacterial Infections	234
– Orbital Cellulitis	234
– Orbital Abscess	236
– Cavernous Sinus Thrombosis	238
• Specific Orbital Infections	240
– Orbital Tuberculosis	240
• Orbital Fungal Infections	244
– Orbital Mucormycosis	244
– Orbital Aspergillosis	246
• Parasitic Infections of the Orbit	248
– Orbital Cysticercosis	248
– Orbital Hydatid Cyst	250
12. Orbital Trauma	255
<i>Jes Mortensen (Sweden)</i>	
• Orbital Fractures	258
– Fractures of the Orbital Floor	258
– Zygomatic-orbital Fractures	262
– Fractures of the Medial Wall of the Orbit	264
– Fractures of the Orbital Roof	266
– Naso-orbital-ethmoid Fractures	268
• Orbital Emphysema	272
<i>Ranjit S Dhaliwal (India)</i>	
13. Aesthetic Ophthalmoplastic with CO₂ Laser	275
<i>Claudio Lucchini (Italy)</i>	
• Transconjunctival Blepharoplasty	276
• Ablative Laser Skin Resurfacing	284
14. Orbital Implants	291
<i>Kiran Tandon (India)</i>	
15. Miscellaneous	303
A. Miscellaneous	303
<i>Ranjit S Dhaliwal (India)</i>	
• Graves Ophthalmopathy (Thyrotoxicosis)	304
• Herpes Zoster Ophthalmicus	308
• Trachoma	312
• Ectropion of Lower Puncta	316
• Carbuncle (Eyelid Abscess)	318
• Caruncular Abscess	320
• Concretions (Lithiasis)	322
• Foreign Body in Sulcus Subtarsalis	324
• Eyelash in the Canaliculus	326
B. Management of Dysfunction of Meibomian Glands with Fugo Blade	328
<i>Daljit Singh (India)</i>	
<i>Index</i>	331

Congenital Eyelids Deformities

Kirit Mody (India)

FORNIX RECONSTRUCTION

Introduction

Lower fornix reconstruction is difficult surgery for ophthalmologist, not familiar, with steps of surgery and it needs better postoperative care than other oculoplastic surgeries.

At time you may have to deal extensive reconstruction in cases of congenital anomaly and need amniotic membrane graft or if other eye is normal, the healthy conjunctiva.

In cases of small symblepharon, the surgery is simple and may need small graft from the same eye or other eye, while in socket surgery you need good buccal mucosa or amniotic membrane graft. The surgery is very gratifying and results are good for neat and precision surgeon.

SYMPTOMS AND SIGNS

The socket looks inflamed and congested associated with watering and discharge. The artificial eye looks slipping out from the socket or if retained it looks forward protruded artificial eye. Many times patient may not like to wear the eye and the purpose of cosmetic correction is wasted.

Patient who had anterior broad symblepharon may complain of inability to move the eye particularly in superior position. Inferior movement may be restricted but not absent. In cases of Stevenson Johnson syndrome and similar diseases, there is extensive adhesions between eyelids and bulbar conjunctiva with change in character of conjunctiva and main complain is of severe dry eye and related symptoms.

In few patients only symptom is cosmetic appearance due to localized fleshy looking symblepharon. The lower tear meniscus is disturbed and watering is main symptom.

ETIOLOGY

- A. Congenital cryptophthalmos and ankyloblepharon or absence of fornix formation
- B. Chronic inflammatory conditions leading gradual loss of lower fornix, while in cases of socket constant irritation by poorly manufactured eye, resulting in total absence of lower fornix.

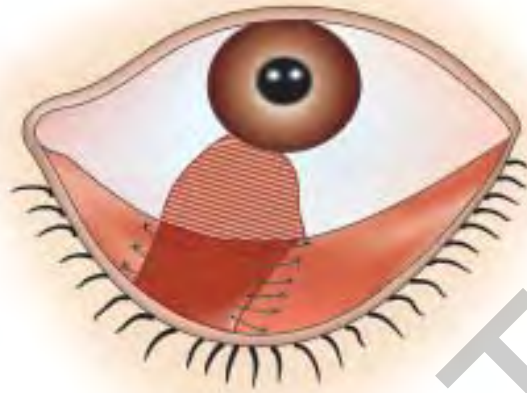


Fig. 1: Conjunctival dissection of symblepharon and graft placement

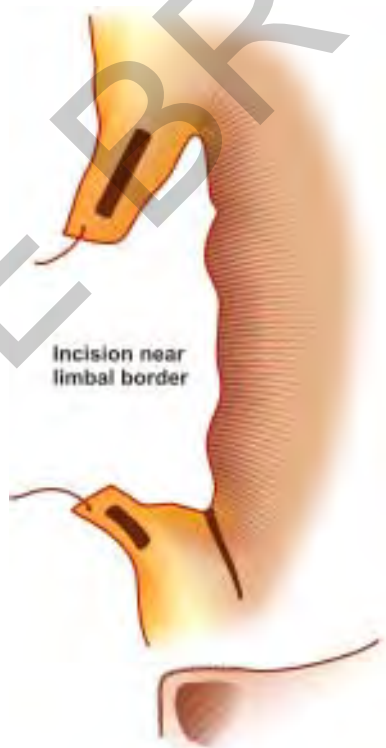


Fig. 2: Socket surgery incision near limbal border

C. Trauma is responsible in many cases whether it is due to mechanical, chemical agents like acid or alkali and radiation injury.

D. Stevenson Johnson syndrome, ocular pemphigus.

These above conditions neither do nor require any differential diagnosis as they are no diagnostic problems and any special investigations. In cases of severe dry eye the success of surgery is limited.

TREATMENT

One should be familiar with anatomy and dimension of conjunctival sac.

Like depth of superior fornix is 13 mm, inferior fornix 9 mm, lateral fornix 5 mm, and medial fornix nil. The distance from the bottom or apex of fornix to orbit is superiorly 5 mm, inferiorly 6 mm, laterally 4 mm and medially nil.

While limbus to fornix distance superiorly and inferiorly 8-10 mm, laterally 14 mm and medially 7 mm.

Preoperative Evaluation

1. One should examine the fornix and measure how much shallow is the fornix, as it may be useful to dissect the amount of buccal mucosa required in cases of socket surgery. It is always necessary to have 25% extra tissue to compensate for shrinkage.
2. Evaluate the status of conjunctiva for active inflammation and existing fibrosis.

It is also necessary in cases of symblepharon to decide how much conjunctiva of symblepharon is available.

Look for any active infective diseases of eyelids, conjunctiva and cornea and treat them.

I have divided techniques in 2 parts, for small broad in width symblepharon and total reconstruction of lower fornix.

Partial Reconstruction

Technique

1. Local injection
2. Mark the area of diseased tissue
3. Inj. s/c local anesthetic with adrenaline to facilitate the incisions on conjunctiva.
4. Cut palpebral border of conjunctiva as it is to be used later on as tarsal conjunctiva.
5. Pass mattress sutures from free end of cut bulbar conjunctiva and through skin at desired level of fornix.

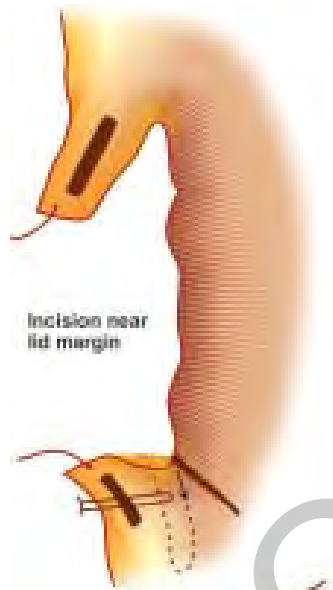


Fig. 3: Incision near lid margin

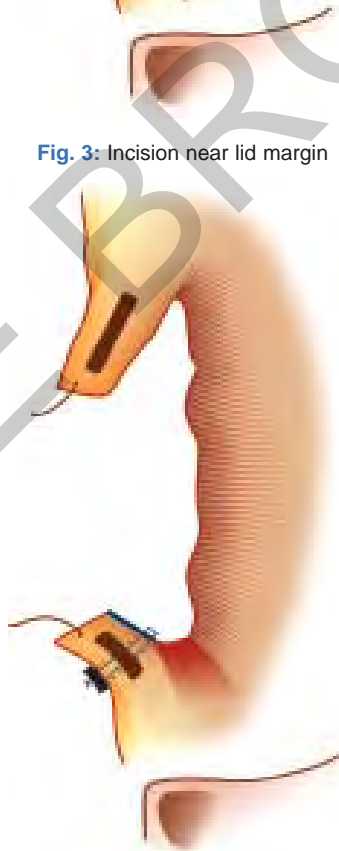


Fig. 4: Suturing the conjunctiva over tarsal area

6. Fix mattress sutures over the skin.
8. Conjunctival graft over the bulbar area of defect with 8 /0 vicryal
9. Ointment and pressure dressing.

Wet field cautery, sponge swabs and viscoelastic material must.

Figure 1 shows dissection of symblepharon and attaching with bulbar part, if it is less vascularized and small mucosal graft for tarsal conjunctiva.

One can use amniotic membrane or patient's conjunctiva for bulbar conjunctiva and vascularized part of symblepharon for tarsal conjunctiva.

DEO LOWER FORNIX RECONSTRUCTION

Following points will help surgeon in deciding how to perform better surgery.

Here I have discussed and outline the technique for lower fornix reconstruction in cases where artificial eye was not fitting properly due to absence of lower fornix.

- Degree of fornix shrinkage
- Amount of reconstruction
- Available tissue
- Amniotic membrane or mucosal graft
- Surgery may be done in stages
- Plastic or glass haptic confirmers with holes.

TECHNIQUE

1. Incision in fornix near limbal side, as it may be possible to have some conjunctival tissue to cover part of tarsal area or alternatively one can take incision on posterior lower lid boarder. Prefer as much as patients' own tissue if it is not severely diseased. Dissect and free boarder can be fixed with mattress sutures.
 2. Suture graft material with free boarder of conjunctiva or palpebral lid margin.
 3. Place of silicone or silicon rod material at possible site of apex of fornix , and pass mattress sutures from silicon to graft to periostium of lower orbital rim to skin. Tie them with piece of rubber. Minimum 3 mattress sutures are required.
 4. Bulbar part of graft fashioned and sutured. Always allow 20 to 25 % extra graft for shrinkage of tissue.
 5. Larger graft may need additional mattress sutures passing from graft to superficial sclera.
 6. Examine the fornix for additional sutures.
 7. Dressings
- Surgeon should dress every day and inspect for infection.

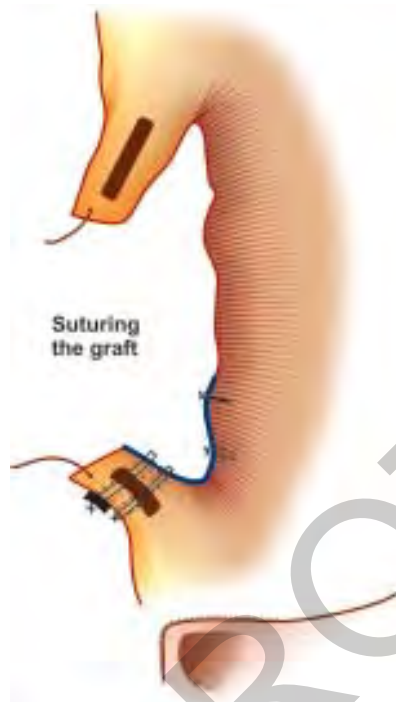


Fig. 5: Suturing the mucosal graft

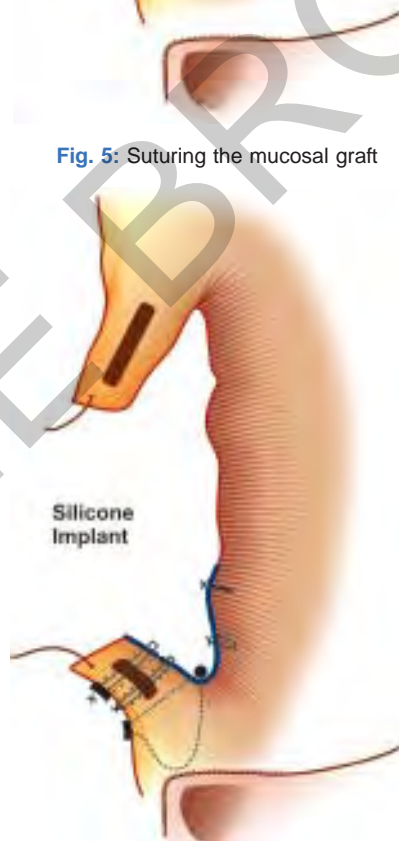


Fig. 6: Placement of silicone rod in lower fornix

Glass rod
Gentle Irrigation
Prosthesis

This case is rare congenital anomaly – a variant of Cryptophthalmos – Ankyblepharon by Ankyosis.

Eyelids were partially formed and fused with the eyeball. The visible bulbar conjunctiva was hyperemic, chemosed, edematous and dry, the eye appeared on first impression as buphthalmic or exophthalmic eye. The patient was operated jointly by ophthalmologist and plastic surgeon for reformation of fornix with amniotic member graft.

The results of fornix reconstruction is very rewarding surgery and one must prepare for good postoperative care.



Fig. 7: Conjunctiva incision



Fig. 8: Conjunctival and mucosal graft suturing



Fig. 9: Fixing silicon rod in lower fornix with mattress sutures
fix over the skin with rubber pieces



Fig. 10: Placement of plastic shell or conformer placed in socket



Fig. 11: Patient looking up and looking down with artificial eye

Congenital Eyelid Anomalies

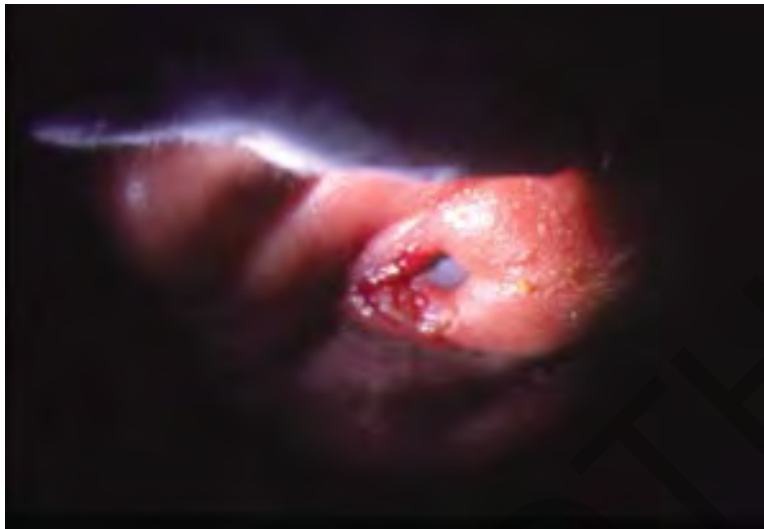


Fig. 12: Cryptophthalmos—Ankyloblepharon by ankylosis before surgery

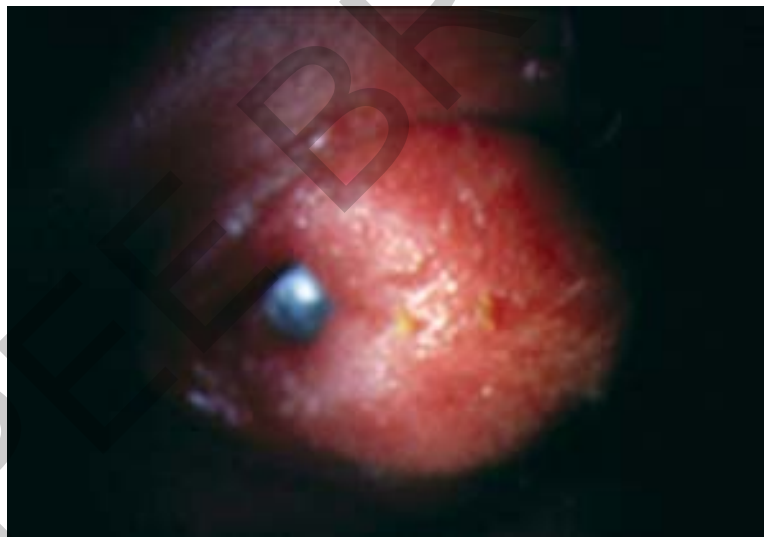


Fig. 13: Cryptophthalmos—Ankyloblepharon by ankylosis before surgery



Fig. 14: Cryptophthalmos—Ankyloblepharon by ankylosis after surgery



Fig. 15: Cryptophthalmos—Ankyloblepharon by ankylosis after surgery

Instant Clinical Diagnosis in Ophthalmology

Oculoplasty & Reconstructive Surgery

Ashok Garg MS PhD is an excellent Anterior Segment Eye Surgeon & Research Ophthalmologist of International repute doing a pioneer work in the field of Ocular Therapeutics, SICS, Microphaco & Refractive Surgery. He has created a World Record for writing maximum number of International Ophthalmology Books in a Calendar year (2006). For this achievement his name has been included in prestigious Limca Book of World Records and Guinness Book of World Records. Reputed International IBC has selected him for Leading Health Professional of Year in the World in 2005. He has been awarded 15 Prestigious International Awards specially Mother Teresa International Award for Excellence, IIRSI Literary achievement award, IAAO Medical Excellence Award, etc. for his pioneer research work & academic achievements in ophthalmology. He has written 38 International Books in the field of Ophthalmology & has contributed more than 82 chapters in various International Ophthalmology books. His eight International Books have been described as Best International Books on the subject in recent review in EUROTİMES Journal. He is Editorial Board Member of EUROTİMES, Highlights of Ophthalmology, Executive Committee Member of IIRSI (India), on Editorial Board of IIRSI Journal, Indexed Current Medical Trends Journal, BOA, DOS & MSICS Journals. He has contributed more than 250 scientific presentations in various ophthalmic conferences and journals. He practices at Garg Eye Institute & Research Centre, 235 - Model Town, Dabra Chowk, Hisar (India) & can be reached by E-mail : drashok_garg@yahoo.com or Tel. 09896025180.



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