

FACELIFT

Procedure: The aim of this procedure is to correct sagging fleshy parts of the face and reduce wrinkles by tightening, removing and/or redistributing these structures.

Duration of operation: 3 to 7 hours depending on the work involved.

Anaesthetics: Minor corrections can be performed under local anaesthetic, with or without additional intravenously administered sedatives. A general anaesthetic is recommended for major facelift surgery.

Outpatient or inpatient: Depending on the work involved, outpatient or hospitalisation for a few days.

Possible side effects and complications: Pain, swelling. Suture marks, tight-, dry-feeling skin bruising and loss of blood, infection, healing complications including blistering or necrosis of wound edges, change in skin sensation or, if small facial nerves have been inadvertently damaged, partial loss of specific facial expressions, mostly recoverable, scars, displacement of hairline, asymmetry, dissatisfaction with the cosmetic results.

Healing: Skin discolouration due to minor bruising or operational trauma disappear after 10 days. Normally patients can return to their normal routine after 2 weeks. Protection against the sun is advised until scars are fully healed (several months).

Results: Signs of ageing in the face are delayed by around 5 to 10 years.

Eyelid tucks

The procedure: treats sagging skin on the upper lids as well as tear sacs on the lower lids, by removing excess skin and tissue and tightening muscles.

Duration of procedure: An upper lid correction lasts around one hour, while a combined correction of the upper and lower lids lasts around two hours.

Anaesthetics: The operation can be performed under a local anaesthetic, or combined with sedation or under a general anaesthetic.

Outpatient/inpatient: The operations can be performed on an outpatient basis.

Possible complications: Temporary feeling of tightness around the eye, swelling, bruising. There may be an increased flow of tears or a swelling of the conjunctiva. Sensitivity to light is possible during the first few weeks post-operation.

Following a lower lid correction, an ectropion may occur (in which the lower lid turns outward) as a result of increased scarring, weak lid muscle or excessive skin tightening. In some cases this can necessitate a follow-up operation.,

Post-operation: Two to three days after the operation the patient is able to read again, and can return to work after 5 to 10 days. Contact lenses can be worn again around 14 days after the operation. After three weeks the patient can resume sports activities. Swelling and bruising disappears after two to three weeks.

Results: In some patients the results are permanent, but in some cases a second correction is required several years later.