

TRICHIASIS

Trichiasis, a very common lid abnormality, is defined as the misdirection of eyelashes toward the globe. The misdirected lashes may be diffuse across the entire lid or in a small segmental distribution.

Trichiasis has numerous causes, and the strategies to correct this problem are dictated by the anatomic abnormality causing the lash misdirection.

TREATMENT

If the trichiasis is limited to a single eyelash or just a few eyelashes, your ophthalmologist may remove the problem-causing lash with forceps. While this eliminates the immediate problem, there is a chance the eyelash may grow back again in the wrong direction.

If you have multiple lashes growing toward your eye, your Eye MD may recommend surgery to have them removed permanently. One surgery, called ablation, uses radio frequencies or lasers to remove the lashes and hair follicles from which they grow. During the procedure, which is done in an outpatient setting, the eye is numbed.

Other surgical treatments include:

- Electrolysis, a process that uses electricity to permanently remove hair. While effective, electrolysis is time-consuming and can be painful.
- Cryosurgery, in which the lashes and follicles are removed by freezing. Cryosurgery is effective, but has the potential for many complications.