

Don't close your eyes to ailing lids

Eyelid health is forgotten – until you have a problem. Then eyelids quickly become a major concern. After all, we are reminded because we blink every three or four seconds.

Ophthalmologists (eye M.D.s) diagnose and treat the myriad of conditions that affect eyelids – from spasms and infections, to sagging and growths.

Eyelids are a specialty of ophthalmologist Debra LaPrad, M.D., a partner at Eye Associates of the South. This includes general ophthalmic care and blepharoplasty (surgical lid lifts for functional or cosmetic purposes). Ophthalmologist Mark Brown, M.D., also performs eyelid surgeries there.

Eye Associates of the South has clinics with optical shops in Biloxi, Ocean Springs and Gulfport.

Some eyelid conditions can have serious consequences if not treated, LaPrad said. Acute eyelid problems may include eye injuries, malignant tumors, and disorders and diseases that can cause vision loss, she explained.

Eyelids perform essential functions for good vision. They lubricate and clean the front of your eyes, protect them from local injury and harmful light, and provide tear maintenance.

Eyelid function may be hampered by minor-to-serious structural problems. That includes sagging lids that may obstruct vision, muscular abnormalities, twitching, nerve-related spasms, moles, bumps, swelling, and ectropion (eyelid turns outward), entropion (eyelid turned in-

ward), blepharospasm (eyelids close involuntarily) and blepharoptosis (gland inflammation) conditions.

Other eyelid problems – often with overlapping issues – include bacterial or viral infections, and inflammation as well as sties, pinkeye, cysts and chalazions.

Some ailments can lead to such chronic or serious disorders as dry eye syndrome, dangerous infections, vision-impeding inflammation and even vision loss, said ophthalmologist Rainna Bahadur, M.D., a partner at Eye Associates of the South. Bahadur's specialties include dry eye syndrome and the practice was named the "Dry Eye Treatment Center for the Mississippi Gulf Coast" by Allergan. Bahadur also is a fellowship trained in

(MORE)

Cornea, External Disease & Refractive Surgery and treats numerous eyelid problems.

"Although some minor issues will heal on their own in a few days, many others should be diagnosed and treated by an ophthalmologist right away, for both medical reasons and patient comfort," Bahadur said.

Patients might have trouble determining if an eyelid problem is serious, thus a professional diagnosis is recommended by the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

For an appointment at Eye Associates of the South, call (228) 396-5185 or visit their website at www.2020view.com.

E
Y
E
L
I
D
S