

PATIENT INFORMATION

Electrolysis

A Guide for Patients

What is Electrolysis?

It is a method of hair or eyelash removal. It was first used successfully in 1875 to remove eyelashes.

How does it work?

It works by passing a small amount of energy into the hair follicle through a very fine needle.

This produces heat, which destroys the cells that produce the hair at the base of the follicle.

More than one treatment session may be necessary because it is not possible to see through the skin to identify the exact position of the hair follicle.

Does Electrolysis Hurt?

The nurse or doctor performing electrolysis will put anaesthetic drops in your eye and then numb the eyelid with a small injection of anaesthetic. Some discomfort is common as the local anaesthetic is given, but the electrolysis procedure is usually comfortable. You will not be put to sleep for this.

After the electrolysis we will give you antibiotic ointment to use for the next week.

The injection will wear off after 1–2 hours and the eyelid may feel a little sore during this time. It is usually a good idea to take your preferred painkiller during this time.

Complications of Electrolysis

- Re-growth of the eyelash. The treatment is only effective if given to the growing root of the eyelash. See “How does it work?”
- Scarring on the edge of the eyelid can occur after repeated sessions of electrolysis.
- You will be asked to keep very still during the procedure because the treatment is very close to the eye. This will reduce the risk of accidental damage.

Benefits of Electrolysis

The doctor that examined your eyes in the Eye Clinic has noticed that one or more of your eyelashes are growing inwards towards your eye.

You have probably noticed an uncomfortable, scratchy feeling and if we let this continue, it can cause eye infections and ulcers on the surface of your eye.

Plucking the eyelash with tweezers at home will give you instant relief of the symptoms, but the eyelash will soon grow back in the wrong direction again!

Useful Information

You may drive home after the procedure.

You may return to work.

You may have a small bruise on the eyelid after the electrolysis. This is not a cause for alarm

Contact details

Please telephone the Eye Clinic for help and advice: 01803 655088 Option 5 (Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm)

Out of Hours & Weekends: 01803 614567 and ask for on-call Eye Doctor.

For further assistance or to receive this information in a different format, please contact the department which created this leaflet.