

CLINICAL POLICY ADVISORY GROUP (CPAG)

Brow Lift Policy

Statement

NHS Derby and Derbyshire ICB (NHSDDICB) has deemed that brow lift should not routinely be commissioned, unless criteria A or B is met:

- A. There is brow ptosis causing functional visual impairment (impaired within 30 degrees of line of sight)

OR

- B. The brow ptosis is caused by any of the following examples
- facial palsy (congenital or acquired paralysis)
 - acute trauma
 - sequelae of specific medical conditions, e.g. cutis laxa, neurofibromatosis, pseudoxanthoma elasticum

The procedure is not commissioned as a cosmetic intervention (at any age) without accompanying functional impact.

These commissioning intentions will be reviewed periodically. This is to ensure affordability against other services commissioned by the ICB.

1. Background

A brow lift is a surgical procedure that involves the elevation and repositioning of the skin and soft tissue around the upper area of the face. The procedure uses the same surgical principles and techniques as craniofacial surgery, allowing access to the upper face.

Brow lifts are often used to correct brow ptosis (droop). Brow ptosis can occur as part of the natural aging process due to the skin and muscle around the upper face area losing elasticity with age. However, in some people, brow ptosis can be caused as a consequence of:

- facial palsy (congenital or acquired paralysis)
- acute trauma
- sequelae of specific medical conditions, e.g. cutis laxa, neurofibromatosis, pseudoxanthoma elasticum

This procedure carries the risk of scarring and paraesthesia.

2. Recommendation

Brow lift should not routinely be commissioned, unless criteria A or B is met:

- A. There is brow ptosis causing functional visual impairment (impaired within 30 degrees of line of sight)

OR

- B. The brow ptosis is caused by any of the following:
- facial palsy (congenital or acquired paralysis)
 - acute trauma
 - sequelae of specific medical conditions, e.g. cutis laxa, neurofibromatosis, pseudoxanthoma elasticum

The procedure is not commissioned as a cosmetic intervention (at any age), without accompanying functional impact.

Information to be Included with Referral

- Details of condition

3. Rationale for Recommendation

- Aging can cause changes to the face and brow that may be considered as being normal
- There are several specific conditions that can cause brow ptosis for which a brow lift may form part of the treatment to restore function.

4. Useful Resources

- Face and Brow Lift, British Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons (BAPRAS), <https://www.bapras.org.uk/public/patient-information/surgery-guides/face-and-brow-lift>

5. References

- Information for commissioners of plastic surgery services: referrals and guidelines in plastic surgery, British Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons (BAPRAS), March 2012, accessed 12/05/23, <http://www.bapras.org.uk/docs/default-source/commissioning-and-policy/information-for-commissioners-of-plastic-surgery-services.pdf?sfvrsn=2>
- Stephanie Byun, MSc, Ilya Mukovozov, MSc, Forough Farrokhyar, PhD, Achilles Thoma, MD, Complications of Browlift Techniques: A Systematic Review, *Aesthetic Surgery Journal*, Volume 33, Issue 2, February 2013, Pages 189–200, [cited 2021 Dec 20], last accessed 12/05/23, <https://doi.org/10.1177/1090820X12471829>

6. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Consultation

All relevant providers/stakeholders will be consulted via a named link consultant/specialist. Views expressed should be representative of the provider/stakeholder organisation. CPAG will consider all views to inform a consensus decision, noting that sometimes individual views and opinions will differ.

Consultee	Date
Associate Specialist Ophthalmologist, CRHFT	May 2023
Consultant Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon, CRHFT	May 2023
Consultant Maxillofacial Surgeon, CRHFT	May 2023
Consultant Ophthalmologist, UHDBFT	May 2023
Clinical Policy Advisory Group (CPAG)	June 2023
Consultant Ophthalmologist, UHDBFT	November 2023
Plastic Surgery Nurse, Lead Clinician, Cosmetics Referral Assessment Service	November 2023
Specialist, Therapeutic Optometrist, Chair, Local Eye Health network (LEHN0 Derbyshire & Northamptonshire)	November 2023
Clinical Policy Advisory Group (CPAG)	December 2023
Plastics Clinical Nurse Specialist, UHDBFT	June 2024
Clinical Policy Advisory Group (CPAG)	July 2024

Appendix 2 - Document Update

Document Update	Date Updated
<u>Version 3.0</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy has been re-worded to reflect the new NHSDDICB organisation. 	June 2023
<u>Version 3.1</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy criteria has been amended to state that "Brow lift should not be routinely commissioned unless criteria A or B is met" instead of "criteria A and B is met" Following statement has been added "The procedure is not commissioned as a cosmetic intervention (at any age), without accompanying functional impact". 	December 2023
<u>Version 3.2</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of reference for requirement of clinical photographs to be included with referral to reflect the closure of the Cosmetics Referral Assessment Service. 	July 2024

Appendix 3 - OPCS Code(s)

S011, S012, S013, S014 S015 S016 S017 S018 S019