

CLINICAL POLICY ADVISORY GROUP (CPAG)

Brow Lift Policy

Statement

Derby and Derbyshire CCG has deemed that brow lift should not routinely be commissioned, unless criteria A and B are both met:

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

and

B. the brow ptosis is caused by any of the following:

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

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

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:

- Trauma
- Congenital or acquired facial paralysis
- Medical conditions (such as cutis laxa, neurofibromatosis, pseudoxanthoma elasticum)

2. Recommendation

Brow lift should not routinely be commissioned, unless criteria A and B are both met:

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

and

B. the brow ptosis is caused by any of the following:

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

The procedure is not commissioned as an intervention to treat the natural processes of ageing

Information to be included with referral

- Details of condition
- Clinical Photographs

3. Rationale for Recommendation

- Aging can cause changes to the face and brow that may be considered as being normal
- There are a number of 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, <http://www.bapras.org.uk/docs/default-source/commissioning-and-policy/information-for-commissioners-of-plastic-surgery-services.pdf?sfvrsn=2>

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
Consultant Plastic Surgeon Specialising in Ophthalmology, UHDB	July 2020
Consultant Ophthalmologist, CRH	August 2020
Clinical Policy Advisory Group	September 2020
Clinical and Lay Commissioning Committee	October 2020

Appendix 2- Document Update

Document Update	Date Updated
Version 1 - policy updates included: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Expansion of criteria to include trauma and ptosis secondary to eg cutis laxaDefinition of visual impairment clarifiedBrow lift/ blepharoplasty - separated into two policies	September 2018
Version 2 – Policy has been re-worded and reformatted to reflect the new organisation’s clinical policy format. This includes the addition of background information, rationale for recommendation, useful resources, references, consultation and document version control.	September 2020

Appendix 3 - OPCS code(s)

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