Your eyes are an expressive feature - one that people notice first. They are also the first of our features to begin to show signs of aging. An aged appearance is a common complaint about the eyes, but can be improved with plastic cosmetic surgery of the eyelids. Advanced Eye Institute has added an Eye Plastic Surgeon to its staff and is now offering plastic surgery of the eye to the Southeast Louisiana region.

Eye plastic surgeons, also known as Oculoplastic surgeons, are Ophthalmologists who have completed post-residency training in this unique sub-specialty. Not only do they perform cosmetic eye surgery, they are trained to perform reconstructive surgery as well.

As the skin around the eye thins, it can sag or droop in the upper and lower eyelids, causing a tired appearance. Sometimes fat can begin to move forward, causing "baggy eyes". If severe, it can interfere with vision or wearing glasses. At first, bags or sagging might be most noticeable in the morning, but as they progress, you may look tired throughout the day. In addition to changing your appearance, sagging eyelids can interfere in everyday activities. If the slack skin interferes with your upper and outer peripheral vision, it can affect things such as driving a car or other mundane tasks. In cases where vision is affected, insurance will often cover the procedure.

The procedure to correct the sagging or "baggy" eyelids is called a blepharoplasty. Blepharoplasty is a surgical procedure that removes excess skin in the upper lids and fat pouches from under the eyes. It can have a dramatic effect on your appearance, giving you a brighter and more rested, youthful look. Blepharoplasty is one of the most satisfying facial cosmetic procedures because recovery is brief while results are long lasting. Additionally, when combined with the resurfacing benefits achieved by the Sciton BBLS laser, which firms skin at the collagen layer, an overall more youthful look is achieved!

Reconstructive surgery is different than cosmetic surgery, in that it is performed on abnormal structures of the face, caused by birth defects, developmental abnormalities, injury or trauma, infection, disease, or tumors. It is usually done to improve function, but may also be done to improve appearance. Some of the more often performed procedures are: correction of inner or outer turning of the lower eyelid, drooping of the upper eyelid, obstruction of the tear duct, injuries to the orbit or tissue surrounding the eye, eyelid skin cancer involving the skin of the eyelid or adjacent face, plastic surgery revision, or eyelid reconstruction. These procedures are not considered cosmetic, and are generally covered by insurance.

The eyelids provide a protective and aesthetic role. They depend on accessory structures that support, move, lubricate, and protect them. Aesthetically, they frame the eyes, providing a pleasing context in which others see your face. No two pairs of eyes are alike, they are custom made for you. If any of these structures are irritated, infected, or misshapen, vision may be impaired. That is why it is important to make an informed decision when choosing a surgeon.

Dr. Quentin Falgoust and his staff are pleased to announce the addition of Richard Apt, M.D. to the practice. Dr. Apt is a Board Certified Ophthalmologist and a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the
Association of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, the California Association of Ophthalmology, and the Outpatient Ophthalmic Surgical Society. Raised and educated in greater Los Angeles, Dr. Apt graduated from Loyola University and completed medical school at UC Irvine. After completing ophthalmology training at the Ochsner Foundation in New Orleans, he was awarded two fellowships in ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgery at the Albany Medical Center in New York, and the University of Toronto where he studied the delicate subspecialty of plastic and reconstructive surgery of the eyelids. He was an Assistant Professor at the Jules Stein Eye Institute (UCLA) and the Doheny Eye Institute (USC), where he shared his knowledge with doctors in training. He has lectured nationally and internationally on eyelid reconstruction. He has also volunteered his surgical expertise throughout Asia, Mexico, Africa, and the Republic of Georgia (in the former Soviet Union). When he is not helping people see the world better, he enjoys skiing, long distance bike riding, and hiking with his family.

Contact Dr. Apt or any of our staff for additional information on the web at www.friendlyeyecare.com, or phone us at 985-446-0506.

For more information on the Sciton BBL laser, which treats many other skin conditions such as acne, pigmented lesions, and more (including hair removal), contact Dr. Apt or our staff at 985-879-2393.

Advanced Eye Institute has been awarded The Courier’s 2013 Reader’s Choice Award For Best Eye Doctor.

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