temporal artery biopsy, the physician must always consider a diagnosis of a systemic vasculitis other than GCA, as the patient may experience a fulminant and downhill course if appropriate therapy is not instituted.

From personal experience with a patient whose diagnosis of GCA was established from angiitis in small vessels adjacent to a normal temporal artery, one of us (S.L.) routinely includes the periarterial tissue in temporal artery biopsy specimens. Had this tissue been stripped from the specimen in our patient, the biopsy would have been interpreted as negative. Temporal artery biopsy specimens from other patients with Wegener granulomatosis have also shown only small-vessel involvement.1-3 When a temporal artery biopsy is performed, the surgeon should refrain from removing the periarterial tissues except to the extent necessary to ensure accurate identification and secure ligation of the vessel. Nor should the pathologist strip the artery before embedding.

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The Role of Midface Lift and Lateral Canthal Repositioning in the Management of Euryblepharon

Euryblepharon is a congenital eyelid anomaly characterized by horizontal enlargement of the palpebral fissure. The eyelid is shortened vertically compared with the horizontal dimension, with associated lateral canthal malpositioning and lateral ectropion.1,2 It may be an isolated finding or associated with ocular anomalies such as lateral displacement of the proximal lacrimal drainage system, a double row of meibomian gland orifices,2 telecanthus, and strabismus.3 In severe cases, it may result in lagophthalmos and exposure keratopathy2 and may require surgical treatment. We report the results of 2 patients with hereditary disorders and euryblepharon treated successfully with midface lift and lateral canthal repositioning surgery. The surgical technique is described.

Report of Cases. Case 1. A 17-year-old girl with Noonan syndrome (Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man 163950) and bilateral lower eyelid euryblepharon since birth was seen with eye irritation and nocturnal lagophthalmos. The parents were also concerned about the aesthetic appearance of their child. An examination revealed upper eyelid ptosis, bilateral inferolateral displacement of the lateral canthi, lateral ectropion (Figure 1), and lagophthalmos with mild punctate keratitis.

She was treated with bilateral midface lift via a swinging eyelid
Surgical Technique. We use a preperiostal midface lift surgery via a swinging eyelid transconjunctival route in both cases. A 3-mm lateral canthal incision is made with a No. 15 blade. The superior and inferior limbs of the lateral canthal tendons are cut with curved Steven scissors to mobilize the entire lateral canthus. The lateral lower eyelid retractors are lysed from the inferior ciliary muscle, and a myocutaneous flap is then raised over the malar eminence by dissecting inferiorly along the inferior orbicularis muscle plane to recruit cheek tissues. Dissection over the medial aspect is performed cautiously to avoid the infraorbital neurovascular bundle. The flap is anchored to the arcus marginalis of the inferior orbit with 4 interrupted 4-0 polydioxanone sutures. The excess horizontal eyelid tissue is excised over the lateral aspect conservatively to shorten the upper and lower eyelids. Lateral tarsal strips of the eyelids are then fashioned (by dissecting the anterior lamella and eyelid margin off the lateral tarsal end) and sutured to the periosteum of the lateral orbit at a higher and more posterior position. The lateral canthus is reformed, and the lateral canthal incision is closed with a 6-0 plain gut suture.
Comment. The lack of anterior lamella vertically in the lower eyelid is reported to be responsible for the ectropion and lagophthalmos. We have observed intraoperatively in our patients that the lateral canthal tendons are elongated and abnormally attached at a lower and more anterior position on the lateral orbit. The former probably contributes partly to the widened horizontal eyelid width, while the latter may account for the canthal malpositioning and lateral ectropion.

The vertical shortness of skin in patients with euryblepharon has prompted treatment with full-thickness skin grafting, which may be effective but aesthetically unappealing to patients. Lateral canthal repositioning surgery alone will not be adequate to address the downward traction force from skin deficiency and does not correct the canthal malpositioning fully. Midface elevation recruits skin from the cheek to augment the deficient anterior lamella of the lower eyelid.

The lateral canthal repositioning surgery corrects the canthal malpositioning, while the midface lift corrects the vertical eyelid shortening and supports the lateral canthus. The ideal plane for midface lift is controversial, although there seems to be a trend toward subperiosteal dissection. We believe that these young patients have robust osteocutaneous ligamentous attachments, normal midface musculature, and a superficial musculoaponeurotic system with no midface descent or deflation. Hence, limited dissection along a preperiosteal plane over the malar eminence to recruit some cheek tissues may suffice to avoid temporal dissection, with the potential risk for facial nerve injury (frontal branch).

In the management of euryblepharon, our surgical technique is an effective treatment alternative to full-thickness skin grafting, with the advantage of having small incisions and superior aesthetic results. However, the durability of the surgical results will require further evaluation with long-term follow-up.

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