
Lateral Canthal Reconstruction After Head-Neck or Periorcular Cutaneous Malignancy

*Oculoplastic and Facial Plastic
Surgery Techniques*

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■ Introduction

The lateral canthus is an important and complex structure necessary for eyelid position and helps to define racial and ethnic appearances of the palpebral fissure. Functionally, the lateral canthus is necessary for appropriate movement and resting tone of the upper and lower eyelids. Injury to the lateral canthal area may result in poor cosmesis, incomplete eyelid closure, inadequate corneal protection, and epiphora. Reconstruction of the lateral canthus, or canthoplasty, is not as well described as that of the medial canthus but its routine support in lower eyelid or cheek cosmetic and functional surgery is well described.¹ Lateral canthoplasty requires similar attention to anatomy and detail to obtain adequate functional and aesthetic results. Basic principles of lateral canthal reconstruction have remained constant throughout the last several decades but techniques have changed.² Indeed, routine stabilization of the lateral canthus has become more common practice in both reconstructive (functional) and in aesthetic (cosmetic) repairs of the lower eyelid, cheek, and periorbital regions.