

TO CLOSE OR TO COVER? TARSORRHAPHY VS PATCHING FOR EXPOSURE KERATOPATHY IN BELL'S PALSY



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Introduction

Lagophthalmos in Bell's Palsy risks microbial keratitis and perforation. This meta-analysis (9 studies, 842 eyes) compares Tarsorrhaphy vs. Conservative Patching/Taping.

Clinical Results

Mean Time to Complete Re-Epithelialization:



Advantage: -7.8 days ($p < 0.001$).

Complications

Incidence of Stromal Ulcers/Microbial Keratitis:



Conclusion

Tarsorrhaphy offers superior protection for moderate to severe exposure. Clinicians should favor lid taping over rigid patching to avoid iatrogenic abrasions.

