

INDICATIONS FOR THIRD EYELID REMOVAL

Resection of the third lid is indicated when it is affected by squamous cell carcinoma while no other structures of the eye are affected. Therefore, resection removes the diseased tissue and saves the vision in the eye.

Neoplasms of the upper and lower lids and nictitating membrane (third eyelid) include squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) or 'cancer eye', and rarely other tumours such as papillomata, and fibrosarcoma. SCC is most significant in terms not only of incidence but also of economic importance and prognosis. SCC occurs more frequently on the globe (65%) than upper and lower lids (30%) or third eyelid (5%), is very invasive locally, and may metastasise to the local lymph nodes (parotid, atlantal or retropharyngeal and the anterior cervical chain).

CLINICAL SIGNS

SCC is largely confined to Hereford and Simmental breeds and their crosses, where the non-pigmented area is liable to develop neoplastic lesions under the influence of ultraviolet radiation from sunlight. Affected cattle are usually four to nine years old. About 85% of cattle with SCC lack pigment in the affected area. The lesion is often an obvious proliferative irregular mass which may ulcerate through the skin to cause moderate distress and blepharospasm. Early lesions appear either as rice-grain-like plaques on the sclera or corneal surface, or as small firm nodules in the dermis. This precursor of a greyish-

white plaque at the nasal and temporal limbus develops into a papilloma and carcinoma in situ. Lid lesions often start as a dirty brown, horn-like keratoma.



Squamous cell carcinoma of the third eyelid