Lateral Canthotomy

Equipment
- Anesthetic
- Syringe with 27 gauge needle
- Iris scissors (from suture removal kit)
- Hemostat

1. **Anesthetize**
   Inject anesthetic into the lateral canthus.

2. **Clamp**
   Clamp the lateral canthus with a hemostat for 1 minute to devascularize.

3. **Canthotomy**
   Cut the lateral canthus laterally about 1-2 cm.

4. **Identify the Canthal Ligament**
   With iris scissors pointed perpendicular to the patient just inside the orbital rim, identify the inferior crus of the canthal ligament.

5. **Cantholysis**
   Cut the inferior crus.

6. **Recheck Pressure**
   Recheck pressure and only if still elevated, cut the superior crus. Confirm IOP < 40 mmHg.

This is for reference purposes only. Consent to photograph was obtained from the patient or family. EM:RAP and the authors assume no liability for use of the techniques described. Local practice, current guidelines, and clinician experience should determine the exact procedural process in any individual patient.

© 2018 EM:RAP Inc. & Created by Jessica Mason, MD.