MODIFIED CUTLER-BEARD PROCEDURE: SECONDARY PLACEMENT OF A TARSO-
CONJUNCTIVAL GRAFT
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Introduction: Since its initial description in 1955, 1 a handful of modifications of the Cutler-
Beard procedure has been proposed. Most have involved the addition of a posterior support
such as donor sclera. 2 In this study we describe secondary placement of an autologous
tarso-conjunctival graft.

Methods: Retrospective case series

Results: The medical records of 3 patients were reviewed. Two (54F, 42M) had undergone a
traditional Cutler-Beard procedure without a placement of a posterior spacer, at an outside
facility. They presented with posterior lamellar retraction with resulting ocular surface
disease. Both underwent placement of a tarso-conjunctival graft roughly one year after their
initial surgery. In both cases the eyelid position and contour improved with resolution of the
ocular surface disease. A third patient (52M) underwent a traditional Cutler-Beard procedure
without initial placement of a posterior spacer. One month following initial surgery, at the
same time as “take-down” of the flap, a tarso-conjunctival graft was placed (figures 1-2).
Post-operatively the patient did well with good eyelid position and function (figure 3).

Conclusion: Secondary placement of a tarso-conjunctival graft following a traditional Cutler-
Beard procedure is a technically simple and effective procedure. It can be performed in
conjunction with take-down of the initial flap or at a later date following surgery.

References
1) Cutler NL, Beard C. A Method for Partial and Total Upper Lid Reconstruction. Amer J
2) Wesley RE, McCord CD Jr. Transplantation of eyebank sclera in the Cutler--Beard method