

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION AND THE AIM OF THE WORK

Epiphora is the imperfect drainage of tears through the lacrimal passages. It is a universal symptom of the lacrimal drainage system disorders "Milder, 1983". The balance between tear secretion and elimination is essential to keep an optically uniform surface of the cornea. In addition, presence of an obstruction within the nasolacrimal drainage system often predispose to infection which may endanger the eye "Milder, 1987".

The ophthalmologists often give too little attention to the patient complaining of epiphora. But to the patient, epiphora may be a major disability. There is constant annoyance of wiping his eyes. He is embarrassed socially when others think that his tears denote an emotional disturbance. His safety as a driver decreases and wearing glasses adds to his handicap.

The techniques of the surgery are more closely related to those concerned with orthopedics, rhinology and hydraulics, than those pertain to the globe. Furthermore postoperative care following lacrimal surgery is mostly intranasal. Therefore, many ophthalmologists avoid work in that field. In spite of that, Jones (1966) claimed that one of every three patients

who consult ophthalmologists has a lacrimal system problem.

The aim of our work on obstructive epiphora is to study the best methods for correct diagnosis including the site and the extent of the obstruction in the lacrimal drainage system in a simple, timesaving method~~s~~. In addition various procedures concerning treatment of epiphora will be studied and compared with each other and with previous investigators, so as to reach the best method to treat the condition.

Epiphora due to lid abnormalities and nasal disorders are excluded from our work.