

Selecting An Eyelid Crease

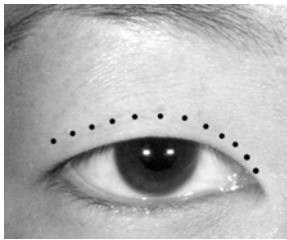
General Considerations Prior to Double-Eyelid Surgery

• **HEIGHT:** It is best to think only in terms of low (~2-3 mm), medium (~4-6 mm), and high (~7-9 mm). Because of many anatomic variables, surgery is not so precise that a doctor can control crease height to the exact millimeter. **Thus, low, medium, and high represent ranges and not exact heights.** The best choices are low or medium. A low crease will look the most natural, while a high crease may appear "surgical" and is almost never a good choice. "Splitting hairs" by expecting, for instance, a "low-medium" or "medium-high" crease assumes a level of surgical precision beyond what can usually be achieved.

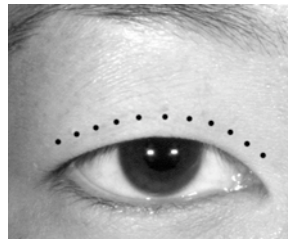


|<-----Low Range----->||<-----Medium Range----->||<-----High Range----->|

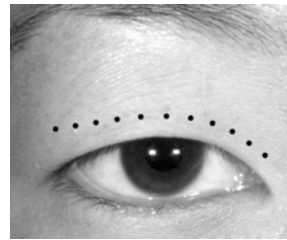
• **SHAPE:**



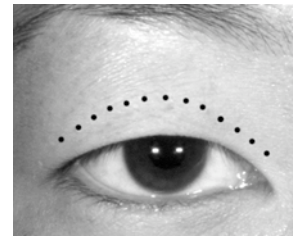
Tapered



Parallel



Lateral Flare



Semilunar

The most natural-appearing crease shape on the Asian face is the **tapered** crease that drops slightly lower near the nose to blend into the epicanthal fold. Since the **parallel** crease does not meet the fold, a small area of "disconnect" between crease and fold may, in some patients, look slightly artificial. If the epicanthal fold is prominent, a tapered crease is the best choice. A **lateral flare** means that the outer end of the crease is directed higher. It is not a common natural feature in the Asian eyelid and is best avoided by men. A **semilunar** crease peaks upward and looks unnatural on the Asian face. Its only application is in patients of mixed descent (part Asian, part Occidental) or those few Asian patients who have a large socket, high nasal bridge, and very high eyebrows.

As with height, **the crease shapes shown above represent ranges** and so will vary slightly patient to patient.

• **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:**

Trying to duplicate a crease shown in a favorite photo is usually not possible, especially when the photo is of a non-Asian face. Photos are only helpful if the face shown is of similar ethnicity and almost identical bone structure. In general, models in magazines are not good examples because they (1) tend to represent the most beautiful of the beautiful, (2) possess atypical facial features, and (3) have often already undergone multiple facial surgeries.

The most natural-appearing crease is the low tapered followed by the medium tapered. A parallel crease, while often requested, introduces a slight unnatural element. A high parallel crease is almost never the best choice.

Being overly aggressive with the intent of making the eyes appear non-Asian is a mistake because the new crease will look unnatural, surgical, and, in most cases, unattractive. It is best to be conservative in choice and realistic in expectations.

In general, rates of healing vary with the aggressiveness of surgery. Tapered creases look more natural faster than parallel creases, and low creases look more natural faster than medium height creases. Though rarely chosen, high parallel creases take the longest to heal and yield the least natural-appearing final result.