

Chalazion

What is a Chalazion?

Chalazion is a cyst on that eyelid that is caused by an inflammation of a blocked gland; usually effects the upper eyelid, but can appear on the lower eyelid as well. Chalazions are different from styes in that they are subacute and usually painless modules. They may become inflamed, but unlike a stye, chalazions usually sit inside the lid rather than on the lid margin.



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Signs and Symptoms:

- Swelling on the eyelid
- Eyelid tenderness
- Sensitivity to light
- Increased tearing
- Heaviness of the eyelid

How is a Chalazion Treated?

Topical antibiotic eye drops or ointments are sometimes used for the initial acute infection. They may often disappear without further treatment within a few months. Healing can be facilitated by applying warm compress to the affected eye for approx. 15 minutes 4 times per day. This promotes drainage and healing by softening the hardened oil that is occluding the duct.

If they continue to enlarge, they may be surgically removed using a local anesthesia by a small injection. The chalazion is then removed through a small incision underneath the eyelid to avoid a scar and normally does not take longer than 15 minutes. There are no sutures required after the removal.

Day of Surgery: Please do not wear eye make up to the appointment. No need to stop Aspirin or blood thinners. You can eat and drink as per normal.

After Surgery: Eye is sometimes patched for 1–2 hours. Pink color on patch and in tears as well as a foreign body sensation is normal. You may resume normal activities. A Prescription will be given for the appropriate antibiotic drops or ointment. Please call our office if you have any questions or concerns. If we are closed and you feel it is an emergency, please see your family physician, walk-in clinic or nearest emergency department.