

Patient Information – Cysts on the Eyelid (Meibomian Cyst)

Department of Ophthalmology

What is an eyelid cyst?

Eyelid cysts form when the drainage tube from one of the glands in the eyelids becomes blocked. The gland cannot drain its secretions and it becomes swollen and may be painful and red. It is not a serious condition.

Treatment

A warm compress encourages the blocked tube to open so that the cyst will drain; this is aided also by gentle lid massage around the cyst. Close your eye and place a warm compress over the cyst, but do not let the eye become uncomfortable with the heat.

Surgery

Given time, the majority of cysts get better without the need for surgery. However, if after time and treatment the cyst has not resolved, you may be offered the option of surgery. This is a simple procedure performed under local anaesthetic as a minor operation.

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