

Patient information

Chalazion / Meibomian Cyst Surgery

Ophthalmology Department – Aintree Hospital

What is a Chalazion?

A common eye lid disorder, a chalazion is an infection or inflammation of a meibomian gland (one of the oil glands) in the upper or lower eyelid, associated with a red, tender swelling and usually develops slowly over several weeks.



What Treatment will I need for a Chalazion?

There are two types of treatment:

Medical

When the chalazion first appears it is possible to treat with warm compresses and massage.

A small non-infected chalazion usually disappears in one or two months. If it is infected antibiotics may be required.

Occasionally the chalazion may become larger and cause pressure on the eye resulting in some blurring of the vision.

Generally however, leaving the chalazion is harmless. Many chalazion disappear without treatment after a few months.

Surgery

Sometimes medical treatment does not resolve the chalazion. The chalazion may eventually become a hard cyst and require an incision and curettage (drainage).

What is an incision and curettage?

- This procedure aims to reduce the size of the cyst and is performed as follows:
- A drop of local anaesthetic is instilled into the eye to numb the inside surface of the eyelid.
- A small amount of local anaesthetic is injected into the skin around the cyst.
- A small clamp is placed around the cyst to help prevent bleeding.
- A cut is made into the cyst (on the inside of the eyelid) and the contents of the cyst removed.
- The clamp is removed and pressure is applied to the eye lids to prevent bleeding.
- Antibiotic ointment is put into the eye to prevent infection.
- The eye is padded for a minimum of two hours.

Are there any risks or adverse reactions involved in having an incision and curettage of chalazion?

- The local anaesthetic injection can sting and be painful, but this enables the surgery to be pain free.

- The surgery may cause bruising of the eyelid.
- Infection at wound site.
- Recurrence / new cysts may develop.
- Further treatment may be required.

Care after chalazion surgery

You should leave the pad dressing on your eye for at least two hours after surgery.

Do not be alarmed if the eyelids are bruised and swollen. This will settle in a few days. Instil the antibiotic eye ointment three times a day for four days.

- Do not wear contact lenses until your course of eye ointment is finished.
- There will be no postoperative follow up appointment.

Feedback

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Further information

If you have any questions please contact:

Ophthalmic Nurse Specialist: (Monday to Friday 9am-3pm)

Tel: 0151 529 0196

Eye Clinic:

Tel: 0151 529 0185

Author: Ophthalmology Department

Review date: April 2026

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