Oxford Eye Hospital

Treatment for a chalazion

Information for patients
What is a chalazion?

A Chalazion is a small cyst (a lump or swelling containing fluid or semi-solid material) in the eyelid. It is a fairly common condition and is caused by a blockage in one of the small glands in the eyelid. Although it is unsightly, it is easy to treat and should not cause you any major problems with your vision.

What are the symptoms?

- A small, inflamed lump which may look unpleasant.
- Mild pain or irritation.
- A chalazion can sometimes get infected – which causes swelling and pain.
- Rarely it can get big enough to block a small part of your field of vision.

What is the treatment?

As a first step in treatment, you will be prescribed antibiotics to reduce the inflammation in the eyelid.

Heat treatment with hot compresses (a cotton wool pad that has been soaked in hot water) can also help and may actually release the contents of the cyst which means that no further intervention is needed.

If the above treatments do not work, this cyst can be removed with a small operation. The nurse in the emergency department will arrange an appointment for this to be sent to you by post.
What does the operation involve?
You will be asked to report to the Emergency Department at the Oxford Eye Hospital. The operation is carried out under local anaesthetic as a day case procedure.

The surgeon will numb your eyelid with an injection of local anaesthetic. This will sting at first but the eyelid will soon become numb.

The surgeon then removes the cyst from the inside of the eyelid. You will not need stitches and no scar will be visible. The nurse or surgeon will then apply some antibiotic ointment and two eye pads.

What happens afterwards?
You may remove the pads after 2-3 hours, or if you prefer, you may leave them on overnight for comfort. We may give you an ointment to use in the eye for the next 5 days.

Often the lid is bruised after the procedure - do not worry, this is normal and will resolve within 2 weeks.

What are the risks?
This is a simple and safe procedure. Possible risks or side-effects are:

• Some people are prone (likely) to getting these lumps again. You can help prevent them from re-occurring by using hot compresses and gently massaging the eyelids.

• You may have an allergic reaction to the antibiotic ointment.
If you have any questions, please contact

Eye Emergency  Tel: 01865 234800

Further information

http://www.patient.co.uk/showdoc/23069132/

If you need an interpreter or need a document in another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call 01865 221473. When we receive your call we may transfer you to an interpreter. This can take some time, so please be patient.

Rebecca Turner, Matron, Specialist Surgery
Sue Clarke, Sister, Ophthalmology
Version1 May 2009
Review May 2012
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust
Oxford OX3 9DU
www.oxfordradcliffe.nhs.uk
OMI 638.1