



Stye

What is a stye?

A stye is a common bacterial infection of an eyelash follicle in the eyelid. The condition is more common in children and is sometimes associated with a condition called blepharitis, in which inflammation (irritation) and dandruff-like flakes develop around the roots of the eyelashes (see [blepharitis leaflet](#)).

The stye appears as a small, red and tender spot, with a yellow centre, at the bottom of an eyelash and can vary in size over time.

What is the treatment?

Many styes will recover with time and this can be helped by using warm compresses and cleaning the base of the eyelashes with a moistened cotton bud twice daily.

If possible, the doctor or nurse in A&E will use tweezers to gently remove the lash which will often encourage the stye to discharge. Antibiotic ointment to rub into the base of the lashes may sometimes be helpful.

Less commonly, a stye may cause a spreading infection along the surface of the lid which may need a course of antibiotics by mouth.

Prevention

To prevent styes from recurring, it may help to treat any underlying blepharitis by cleaning your eyelids on a daily basis (lid hygiene). See our blepharitis leaflet for details.

For a video demonstration of these techniques please search 'lid hygiene' on Moorfields Eye Hospital YouTube channel or visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/lid-hygiene>



Alternatively you can scan the QR code above.

When to seek advice

If the eye becomes increasingly red or painful or your sight becomes more blurred, you should telephone Moorfields Eye Hospital Direct for advice on 020 7566 2345 or attend your local A&E department or the Moorfields 24/7 A&E department which is open for emergency eye problems only for a further examination.



Useful contacts

Moorfields A&E at City Road, 162 City Road, London EC1V 2PD
Telephone switchboard:
020 7253 3411

This is a 24 hour service for eye emergencies only. Following triage, you may be seen on the day or informed that no treatment is needed at the service and advised to see your GP or optician. Alternatively, you may be booked into an urgent care clinic at City Road for a different day.

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Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
City Road, London EC1V 2PD
Phone: 020 7253 3411
www.moorfields.nhs.uk

Moorfields Direct telephone helpline

Phone: 020 7566 2345
Monday-Friday, 8.30am-9pm
Saturday, 9am-5pm
Information and advice on eye conditions and treatments from experienced ophthalmic-trained nurses.

Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

Phone: 020 7566 2324 or 020 7566 2325
Email: moorfields.pals@nhs.net
Opening hours: Monday to Friday, except bank holidays
Moorfields' PALS team provides confidential advice and support to help you with any concerns you may have about the care we provide, guiding you through the different services available at Moorfields. The PALS team can also advise you on how to make a complaint.

Your right to treatment within 18 weeks

Under the NHS constitution, all patients have the right to begin consultant-led treatment within 18 weeks of being referred by their GP. Moorfields is committed to fulfilling this right. For more information about your rights and responsibilities, please visit the Moorfields website and search 'Referrals to treatment (RTT)'. To learn more about your rights under the NHS constitution, visit www.nhs.uk/choiceinthenhs

