

Chalazion or meibomian cyst

- A chalazion or meibomian cyst is a painless lump in the eyelid that forms because the duct of an oily gland in the eyelid becomes blocked. A chalazion often occurs with blepharitis (inflammation of the eyelid edges).
- The lump may gradually increase in size and become red and painful if it gets infected. It is important to clean your eyelids thoroughly to stop these lumps forming.
- The chalazion should shrink gradually, but may take several months to disappear completely. If it becomes infected, your doctor will give you antibiotic ointment, tablets or both.
- If the lump is large or does not appear to be shrinking, you will need a minor operation called an incision and curettage. Anaesthetic drops are put in your eye, and then local anaesthetic is injected into your eyelid. This stings a little. The affected eyelid is then flipped over with a metal lid clamp, and a small cut is made on the inside of the eyelid where it will not show.
- The contents of the cyst are removed with a fine scraper, and the clamp is removed. You will need a pad over your eye for an hour or so and to apply antibiotic ointment regularly to your eye for a few days. Any discomfort is mild.

Incision and curettage

