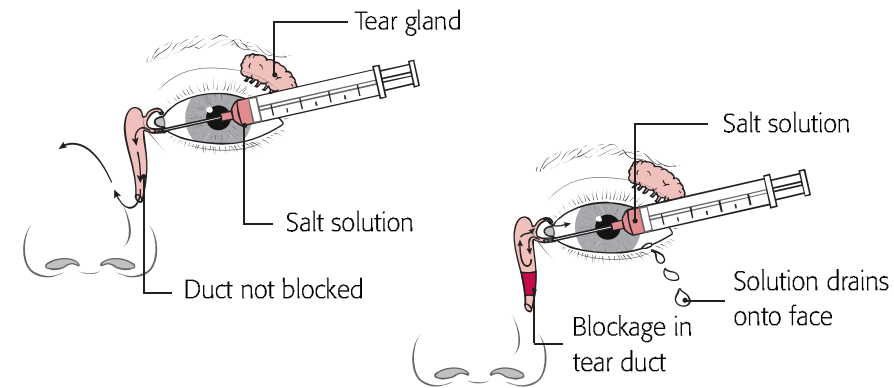


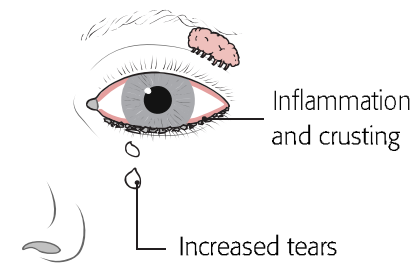
Watery eyes in adults

- A blocked tear duct can cause a watery eye in adults. Syringing can test whether a tear duct is blocked. Anaesthetic drops are put into your eye and then a fine tube is placed into the duct on the inner corner of your eyelid. Salt water is injected into the tube, and this should drain into your nose and to the back of your throat. If you cannot feel or taste salt water running down your nose or the back of your throat the tear duct is likely to be blocked. Syringing does not unblock the duct. If your watery eye is very troublesome, an operation called dacryocystorhinostomy may be needed to clear the duct.
- If the eyelid edges are inflamed (blepharitis), the eye feels gritty and sore, and this causes increased tear production.
- Ingrowing eyelashes or an inturned lower eyelid (entropion) can irritate the eye and cause increased tear production. If the eyelid droops away from the eye (ectropion), this increases watering because tears are unable to flow into the tear ducts. The eye is not usually sore.
- The position of the eyelid can be corrected with a minor operation under local anaesthetic. Ingrowing eyelashes can be removed using forceps. If the lashes grow back, the eyelash roots can be permanently destroyed using a fine needle and small electric current (electrolysis) after a local anaesthetic injection has been given.
- If the tear duct opening is too narrow (punctal stenosis), tears cannot enter the tear duct. The opening can be made bigger by a simple, quick operation under a local anaesthetic.

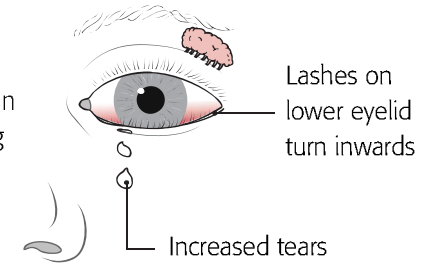
Syringing the tear duct



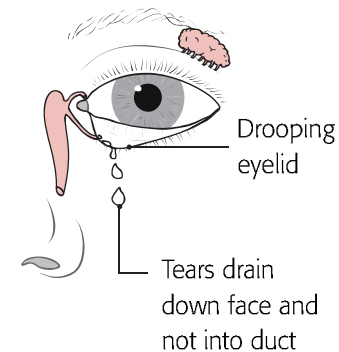
Blepharitis



Ingrowing lashes (entropion)



Drooping eyelid (ectropion)



Punctal stenosis

