



# UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND UNIVERSITY HEALTH CENTER

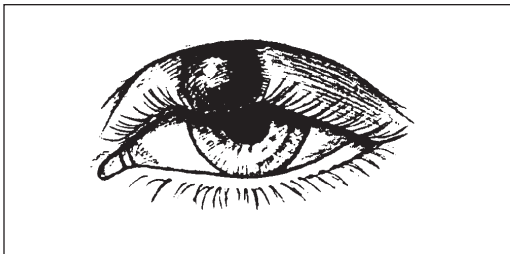
Accredited by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc.  
www.health.umd.edu

## Chalazions & Styes

### What are chalazions and styes

A chalazion (pronounced kah-la'-ze-on) is a swelling in the eyelid caused by chronic inflammation of one of the small oil producing glands located in the upper and lower eyelids.

A chalazion is sometimes confused with a stye which also appears as a lump in the eyelid. A stye is an acute inflammatory infection of a lash follicle and forms a red, sore lump near the edge of the eyelid. A chalazion is usually a reaction to trapped oil secretions and not caused by bacteria, although the site can become secondarily infected by bacteria. Chalazions tend to occur farther from the edge of the eyelid than styes (although a gradual swelling can be felt near the edge of the lid). Occasionally, a chalazion can cause the entire eye to swell suddenly.



### How are chalazions and styes treated?

When chalazions or styes are small and without symptoms, they may disappear without treatment.

However, if treatment is required, they may be treated by any one or combination of the following methods:

1. Antibiotic drops or ointments, if indicated.
2. Warm compresses: warm compresses can be applied in a variety of ways. The simplest way is to hold a clean washcloth, soaked in hot water, against the closed lid for five to ten minutes, three to four times a day. Repeatedly soak the washcloth in hot water to maintain adequate heat.
3. Treatment by an ophthalmologist: massage or expression of the glandular secretions.
4. Surgical incision or excision: Chalazions usually respond well to treatment, although some people are prone to recurrences and may require continuing medication. If a chalazion recurs in the same place, your ophthalmologist may suggest a biopsy to rule out serious problems.

Reviewed 8.05

**Published for the University of Maryland community.**

This paper is made from 30% post consumer waste. Don't let the cycle stop here, please recycle this after you recover.