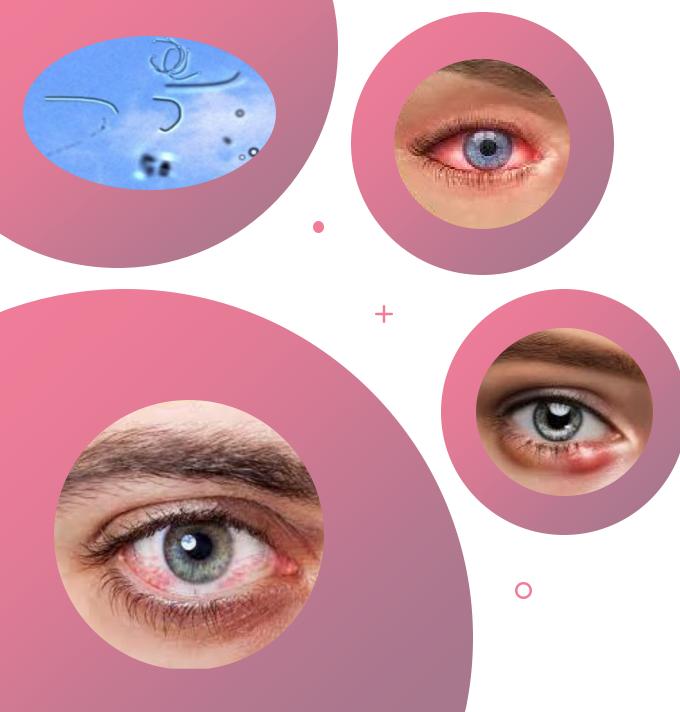
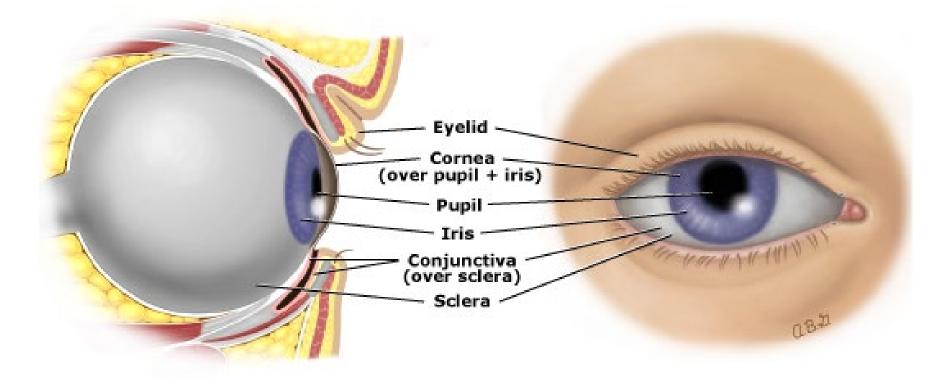
## Common Eye Problems





- Floaters
- Conjunctivitis
- Styes, Chalazions
- Dry eye

## Anatomy of the Eye





Conjunctivitis, also called "pinkeye", is an inflammation of the conjunctiva.

The conjunctiva is a thin membrane that lines the inner surface of the eyelids and the whites of the eyes (called the sclera).

## Causes of Conjunctivitis

- **Bacterial infections**
- Viral infections
- Allergies
- Foreign body



## **Bacterial Conjunctivitis**



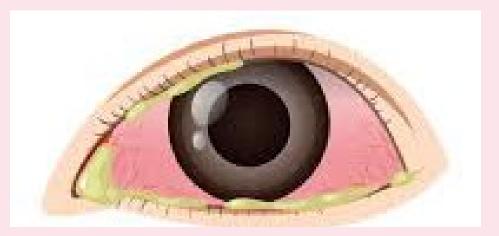
Highly contagious and can spread by contact.

### Symptoms

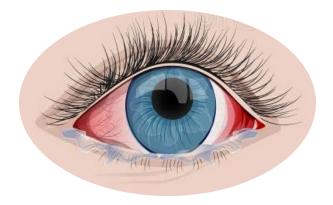
- Redness
- Thick yellow, white, or green discharge
- Discharge throughout the day
- Eye can be "stuck shut" in the mornings
- Both eyes can become infected

### Treatment of bacterial conjunctivitis

- Antibiotic eye drops or ointment helps shorten duration of symptoms.
- In most cases, the infection will resolve on its own if not treated.



## Viral Conjunctivitis



Caused by same virus that can cause the common cold.

There may be other symptoms such as swollen lymph nodes, fever, sore throat, and runny nose.

It is highly contagious.

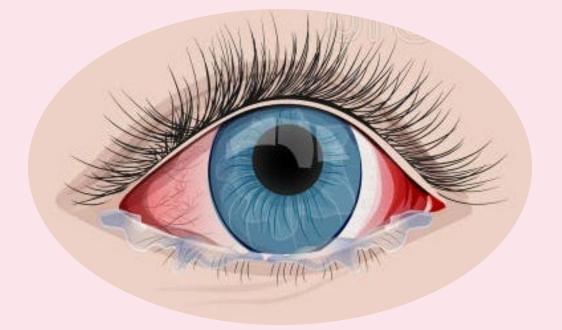
## Symptoms

- Redness
- Watery discharge
- Burning, sandy, or gritty feeling
- Morning crusting
- Second eye usually becomes infected within a day or two

### Treatment of viral conjunctivitis

- Topical antihistamine/decongestant eye drops help relieve discomfort.
- Warm or cool compresses may help relieve symptoms.
- Symptoms are usually worse for the first three to five days, and then gradual improvement is seen over the course of two to three weeks.

 $\succ$  There is no cure.



# Allergic Conjunctivitis



Caused by airborne allergens that come in contact with the eye:

- dog or cat dander
- grass and weed pollens
- dust mites
- o **molds**

## May present seasonally or all year round.

### Symptoms

- Redness, watery discharge
- Itching
- Burning and sensitivity to light
- Swelling of eyelids can occur
- Both eyes usually affected
- Rubbing the eyes will worsen symptoms

## Treatment of allergic conjunctivitis

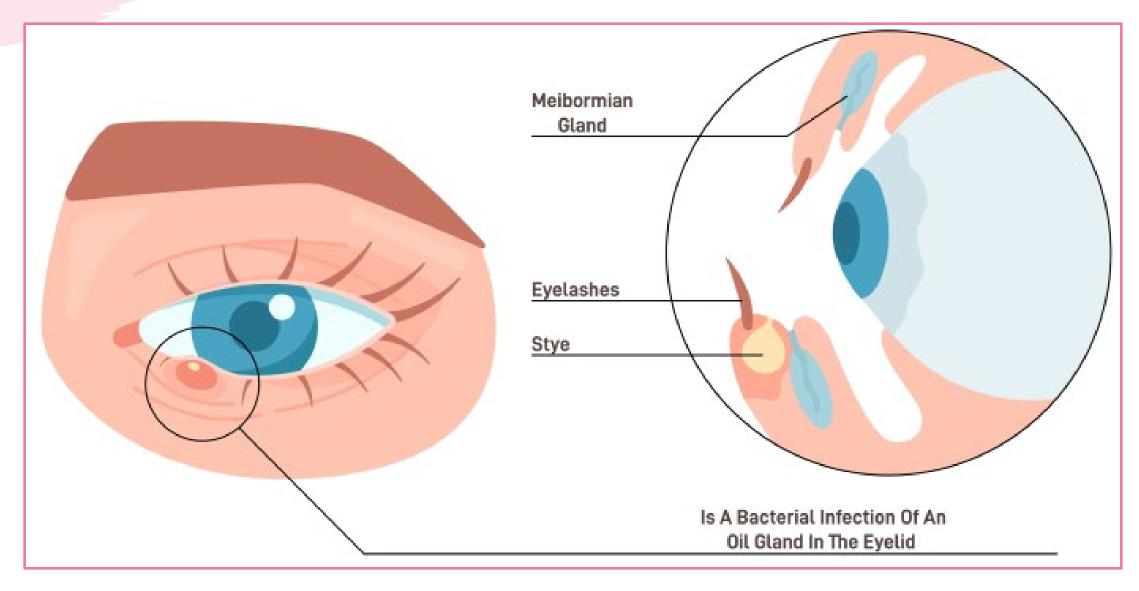
- > Avoid rubbing eyes.
- Artificial tears, cool compresses, or antihistamine eye drops may help alleviate symptoms.
- > Minimize exposure to allergens.
- Oral antihistamines may prevent symptoms from developing or treat symptoms once they occur.





- Also known as hordeolum.
- Most caused by a staph infection.
  - When bacteria get trapped inside clogged oil glands an infection can occur.
- Small, red bump visible on the outside of the eyelid in the lash line.
- Resembles a "pimple".
- Can be inside the eyelid.

## Stye = Hordeolum



# Symptoms of a Stye

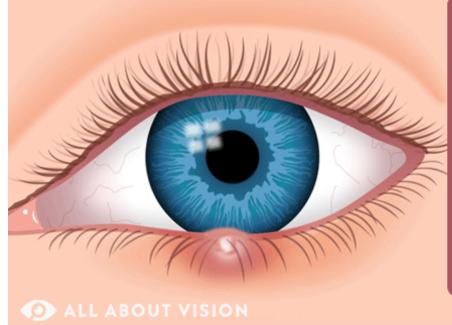
- Painful swelling of the eyelid.
- Frequent watering of the affected eye.
- Discharge or crustiness.
- Light sensitivity.
- Foreign body sensation.
- Blurry vision.



# Relieving symptoms of a stye:

- Mild heat/warm compresses 5-10 minutes up to 4 times a day.
- To clean eyelids, lightly massage with diluted, tear-free baby shampoo; rinse with warm water.
- $\succ$  Don't pop or squeeze the stye.
- Don't rub the eye or eyelid increases inflammation and introduces more bacteria, dirt, and oil.

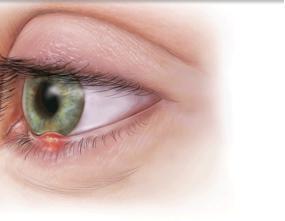
### 6 Ways to Treat a Stye



- 1. Wear your glasses (not contacts)
- 2. Stop wearing eye makeup
- 3. Wash your hands before and after touching the stye
- 4. Clean your eyelids
- 5. Apply a warm compress
- 6. Massage the area

# Stye vs Chalazion

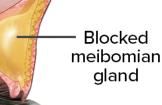
#### STYE



#### CHALAZION



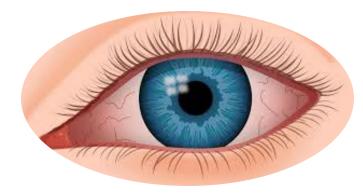
Blocked oil gland on edge of the eyelid



#### Chalazion = meibomian cyst.

- Forms inside eyelid when meibomian gland is blocked.
- ✤ More common on upper lid.
- ✤ Unlike a stye, not an infection.
- Feels like lump under skin; not painful.
- ✤ Can grow to size of a pea.





- Dry eye happens when eyes don't make enough tears to stay wet, or when tears don't work correctly.
- This can make eyes feel uncomfortable, and in some cases, can also cause vision problems.
- Dry eye is common.



- Scratchy feeling, like something in the eye.
- $\succ$  Stinging or burning.
- ➢ Red eyes.
- $\succ$  Sensitivity to light.
- $\succ$  Blurry vision.

## Risk factors for developing dry eye

#### **Environmental aspects:**

- Low humidity
- High temperature
- Wind
- Air pollution
- Tobacco smoke





### Nutritional factors:

- Diet low in omega-3 fatty acids
- Diet with higher ratio of omega-6 to omega-3 fatty acids

#### Daily activities:

- Computer use
- Watching TV
- Prolonged reading



# More risk factors



#### **Medications**

- Anticholinergic drugs:
  - o Antihistamines
  - o Tricyclic antidepressants
  - Antispasmodics
- Beta blockers
- Diuretics
- Chemotherapy, etc.

#### Other factors:

- Refractive surgery (LASIK)
- Parkinson's
- Diabetes
- HIV



# Treatment of dry eye



- The most common treatment is over-thecounter lubricating eye drops and moisturizing gels and ointments.
- There are prescription medications that help help the eyes make more tears.

### Lifestyle changes to decrease dry eye

- > Avoid smoke, wind, and air conditioning.
- > Use a humidifier.
- > Limit screen time.
- > Take breaks from contact lenses.
- > Wear sunglasses.
- > Stay hydrated.
- > Get enough sleep.





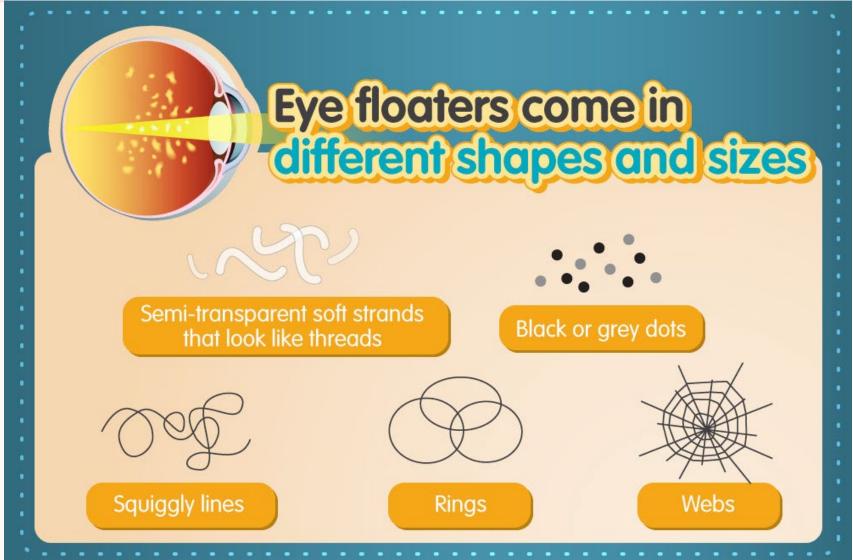




Floaters

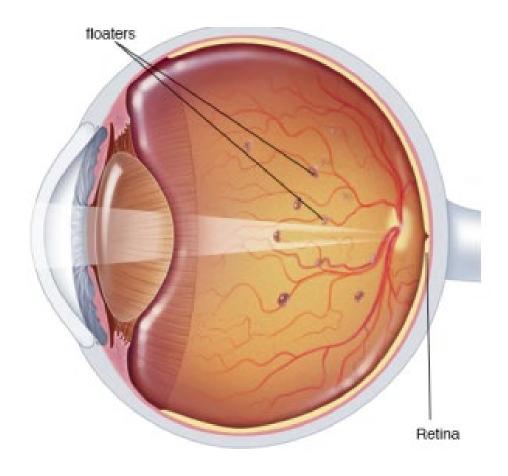
- Small specks, squiggly lines, or cobweb-like images that seem to dart about in front of your eyes, moving as your eyes move.
- Can be insignificant and annoying, or may signal something more serious, like detachment of the retina.
- $\succ$  Tend to develop as people age.
- More common in diabetics, nearsighted people, or after cataract surgery.





# Why do floaters develop?

- The vitreous is a gel-like substance that fills about 80 percent of your eyes, giving them their round shape.
- Over time, it slowly shrinks and can become stringy. The strands that result cast tiny shadows on the retina that cause you to see floaters.
- When a section of the vitreous pulls fine fibers away from the retina all at once, you may suddenly see many new floaters.
- Floaters require no treatment. The floaters eventually seem to settle at the bottom of the eye, below the line of sight.





Thank you Jean Justad, MD Medical Director DDP 2023



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