

Figure 4

What is a Stye?

A stye is a painful infection of an oil gland in the eyelid (2). A stye will look like a red lump near the edge of your eyelid, sometimes it can form inside the eyelid. It is often caused by the bacteria *Staphylococcus aureus* (1). It is a gram-positive bacteria found on people's skin. It also forms grape like clusters, facultatively anaerobic, and immobile. Anyone can be at risk for a stye. Styes are very common as they effect millions of Americans every year (2). They are no cause for serious concern unless they don't go away on their own within a few days or weeks. You don't need to worry about giving a stye to someone else. They are not a contagious infection.

Prevention

There are many things you can do to prevent getting a stye. Cleaning your hands and face frequently, do not share makeup or contacts., be sure to take your contacts out before you go to sleep. Things to generally keep your eye area clean and free from dirt (1).

Treatments

There are no treatments for a typical stye as they go away on their own. There are a few things you can do to help it go away (2).

- warm compress
- keeping eye and face clean,
- pain relievers can be used
- no makeup should be worn on the eyes

If the stye does not go away on its own after approximately two weeks an antibiotic cream might be prescribed or surgery to remove or drain the stye will be preformed.



Figure 5

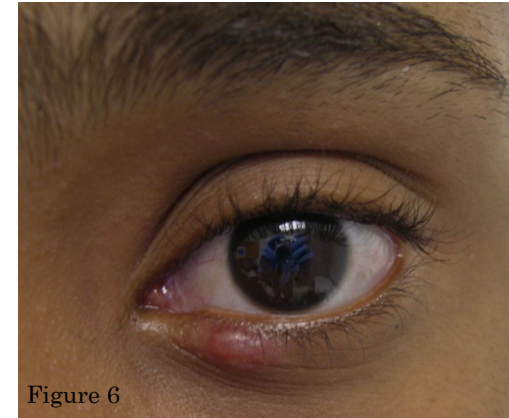


Figure 6

Symptoms

some common symptoms are (1)

- itchy eyes
- inflammation of the eyelid
- watery eyes
- Pain on eyelid

Causes

The main cause of a stye is the infection of an oil gland on the eyelid. This can happen many ways. Here are some things to keep in mind (2) :

- Touching your eyes with unwashed hands
- Leave on eye makeup overnight
- Expired or shared cosmetics
- Inserting contacts with dirty hands