

Columbus Ophthalmology Associates
CHALAZION

What is a chalazion?

A chalazion is a swollen, chronic inflammation of the oil glands of the lid. The size of a chalazion can increase and produce blurred vision by distorting the shape of the eye. Oil gland secretions become trapped similar to an acne-like condition. If the oily debris is not drained, the chalazion will continue to increase in size.

How is a chalazion treated?

In the early stages, a chalazion may be treated at home with repeated use of warm compresses as follows:

- Thoroughly wash your hands before performing any eye care
- Run a clean washcloth under warm water
- Wring out the washcloth and gently place the washcloth over your closed eyelids for a few minutes. The warm compress will help to loosen the crust on the eyelid.
- Repeat the above steps as the washcloth cools and continue the process for at least ten minutes

Treatment will involve any one or a combination of the following:

- Antibiotic drops
- Antibiotic pills
- Warm compresses and massages of the chalazion cyst
- Lid scrubs
- Surgical excision if there is no improvement following the above treatment

Will a chalazion return?

Despite an aggressive treatment, some individuals are prone to the recurrence of a chalazion. This is common in patients who suffer from a skin condition known as acne rosacea. Long-term treatment with antibiotics or consultation with a dermatologist may be necessary in these cases.

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