

# OAKLEIGH EYE CENTRE

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## CHALAZION

A Chalazion is an infected cyst that occurs in any eyelid. It lies in the cartilage of the eyelid. (This is the firm part that holds the eyelids in position.) It is much like a pimple on the skin, only within the eyelid.

If it does not settle down with simple measures, such as bathing, massage, antibiotics, drops or ointments, it may need to be removed by a minor procedure. This is performed under local anaesthetic with an injection around the lump to make the area numb, just like at the dentist.

A small incision is made usually on the inside of the eyelid, and the infected lump is removed.

### Management following the procedure

1. A small amount of faintly bloodstained tears and discharge is common on the first day. If there is fresh bleeding, use a tissue to apply firm pressure with your fingers over the lump for approximately 5 minutes. If this does not help and the bleeding is increasing, you should ring the surgery.
2. Remove the pad in about 1 – 2 hours. It helps to apply pressure to the wound. Take Panadol or Panadeine, according to the packet directions, if needed for pain.
3. It is common for the eyelids to be crusted or to have a small amount of dried blood in the first day or two after the procedure. This can be cleaned by using a cotton bud / cotton wool with cooled boiled water from the kettle. You can add ½ teaspoon of salt to 1 cup of water if you wish.
4. Use the drops or ointment as prescribed. Once your eye is healed, in approximately 5 days, it is safe to stop the treatment.
5. After surgery, swelling and bruising over the lump are quite common. The swelling usually goes in 1 – 2 days, but the bruising may take up to 1 week to disappear completely.