

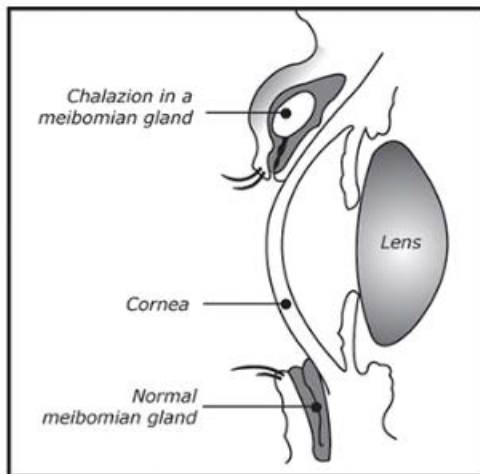
Chalazia and Styes

About eyelids

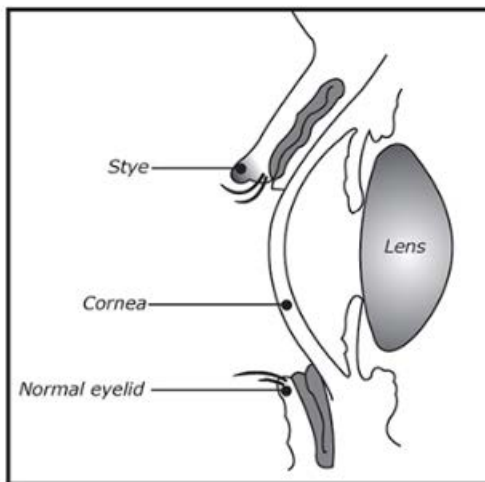
The eyelids are very important—they do much to protect the eyes from approaching objects and irritating particles in the air. When you blink, your eyelids help to remove foreign objects and distribute tears which lubricate the eyes. But, sometimes the eyelids can have problems and need care. Two common conditions that affect the eyelids are chalazia and styes.

Chalazia

A chalazion results from a long-term blockage of one or more of the small oil producing glands (meibomian glands) that are found in the upper and lower eyelids. This blockage causes a lump on the eyelid that may grow to the size of a pea. Chalazia are usually painless. If a chalazion becomes infected, the eyelid can become swollen, inflamed and more painful.



Styes (hordeola) are often confused with chalazia because they are also a bump in the eyelid. Styes are most often caused by bacterial infections of an eyelid gland. Often they occur near an eyelash root or follicle close to the edge of the eyelid, but may also be deeper in the eyelid. These lumps are red, swollen and painful.



A chalazion (left) is a lump inside the eyelid caused by a blockage in a small oil-producing gland. A stye (above) is a similar swelling near the edge of the eyelid caused by an infected gland near the root or follicle of an eyelash.

Styes



American Optometric Association