



Styes

Patient and Family Education

What is a stye?

A stye is a blocked gland of the eyelid. The stye may be on the outside or inside surface of the eyelid. A child may get more than one stye at a time.

What are the possible symptoms?

Your child may have one or more of the following symptoms:

- The eyelid becomes red, swollen and painful
- Within a few days a tiny bump develops at the base of the eyelash

What is the treatment?

Some general guidelines to follow at home include:

- Apply warm compresses to the bump four times a day for 10-15 minutes
- Never squeeze the bump

When should I call the doctor?

Call your child's doctor if:

- Your child has repeated styes.
- The stye is not draining or getting better after three days of treatment.
- The stye is not completely healed after 10 days.
- Your child cannot see well.
- Your child has a temperature above 100.3°F.
- The skin surrounding the eye or eyelid becomes red.

How can I prevent styes from spreading?

- Do not touch or rub the eyes with dirty hands
- Wash hands often, especially before touching the eyes.

In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room right away.

This is general information and is not specific medical advice for your child. Always consult your child's doctor or other healthcare provider if you have any questions or concerns about the care or health of your child. A Children's Healthcare of Atlanta pediatric advice nurse is available 24 hours a day at 404-250-KIDS.