

What is a tear duct?

A tear duct is a tiny passage between the inner corner of the eyelid and the inside of the nose. It drains away tears and mucus.

What is a blocked tear duct?

A blocked tear duct is when the passage becomes blocked and cannot drain well. Blocked tear ducts are common in babies and most often go away on their own. A blocked tear duct causes an overflow of tears and mucus that may cause an infection and crusting on the eyelashes.

What is a tear duct probing?

A tear duct probing is a type of surgery. The doctor will place a thin flexible probe through the blocked tear duct to open it. The probe does not stay in the tear duct. The tear drain is then flushed with saline, or irrigated, to make sure it is open.

A tear duct probe is needed if:

- The blocked tear duct does not go away on its own and there is chronic tearing.
- There is a bad infection.
- There are repeated infections.

How should I care for my child after surgery?

- Your child's eyes and nose may drain a small amount of blood-tinged fluid for up to 3 days. You may wipe the drainage away with a clean cloth.
- Keep your child home from day care or school the day of surgery. Your child needs rest.
- Give your child plenty of fluids to drink (unless the doctor tells you to limit fluids).
- Your child may go back to their normal activities and meals when they feel ready.
- Give your child medicine as advised by the doctor.
- Most children have some pain after surgery. If you think your child is uncomfortable, you may give acetaminophen (Tylenol, Temptra, Panadol or less costly store brand) if prescribed by your child's doctor. Follow the directions on the box carefully, or ask your child's doctor how much medicine to give.
 - Do not give your child more than 5 doses of acetaminophen in 24 hours.
 - Do not give acetaminophen to babies younger than 3 months of age unless the doctor tells you it is okay.

When should I call the doctor?

Call the doctor **right away** if your child has:

- Fever (temperature of 100.4°F or higher) for more than 3 days.
- Fever that is 101°F or higher.
- Eyelid that becomes swollen or warm.
- Eyelid that has pus.
- Any bright red bleeding.
- Blood-tinged drainage that lasts more than 3 days.

Also call if you have any questions or concerns about how your child looks or feels.

This teaching sheet contains general information only. Talk with your child's doctor or a member of your child's healthcare team about specific care of your child.

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