



Sty

Parent Resource Template

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DEFINITION

- A bacterial infection affecting one or more of the small glands near the base of the eyelashes. A sty is like a boil or a pimple and is often painful.

SYMPTOMS

- Red bump at or near the edge of the eyelid.
- Eyelid pain.
- Eyelid swelling.
- Tearing.

PREVENTION

- Use good hand hygiene.
- Avoid rubbing the eye.
- Sties may drain pus that contains bacteria. The bacteria could be contagious to others, but the drainage period is usually brief.

TREATMENT

- Sties will resolve most quickly by applying a warm compress to the area for 10 minutes, 3-4 times daily. This usually results in spontaneous drainage of the sty.

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS

- Redness and swelling extending beyond the eyelid and involving the cheek or other parts of the face. Occasionally a sty may progress to a more widespread infection, called cellulitis.

RETURN TO SCHOOL

- Student may return to school unless the eye is actively draining.

CALL YOUR HEALTH PROVIDER

- If there is no improvement within 48 hours.
- Any spreading redness or swelling of the eyelid.

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Information obtained from American Academy of Pediatrics and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention