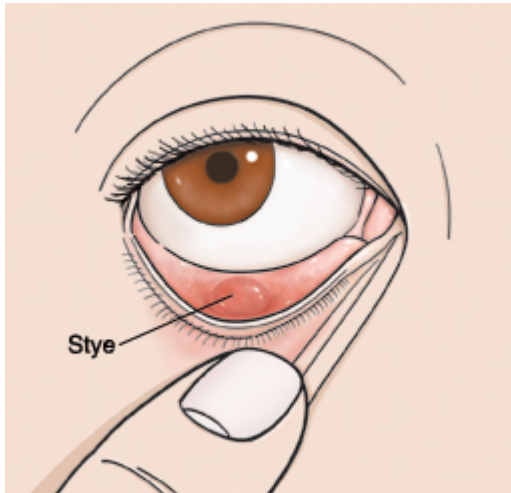


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# When Your Child Has a Sty

A sty is a common problem in children. It's an infection that appears as a red bump or swelling near the rim of the upper or lower eyelid or under the eyelid. A sty can irritate the eye and cause redness. But it shouldn't be confused with pink eye (conjunctivitis). Unlike pink eye, a sty is not contagious. That means it can't be spread to another person. A sty is often not a serious problem and can be easily treated.



## What causes a sty?

A sty is caused by an infection in the hair follicle or in the oil gland near the rim of the eyelid or under the eyelid.

## What are the symptoms of a sty?

- Painful red bump or swelling near the eyelid
- Itchiness of the eye and eyelid
- Feeling that an object is in the eye
- Eye discharge or tearing
- Crusting on the eyelid

## How is a sty diagnosed?

A sty is diagnosed by how it looks during an exam. To get more information, the healthcare provider will ask about your child's symptoms and health history. You will be told if your child needs any tests.

## How is a sty treated?

- Most styes don't need treatment. But your child's healthcare provider may prescribe antibiotic eye drops or eye ointment.

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- To help ease your child's symptoms, apply a warm compress to the styte 3 to 4 times a day. This can be done with a warm, clean washcloth.
  - Don't squeeze or touch the styte. If the styte drains on its own, cleanse the eye with a warm, clean washcloth.
  - If your child doesn't get better in 4 to 6 weeks, they may be referred to an eye care provider who specializes in eye surgeries and procedures (ophthalmologist). In rare cases, a styte may need to be drained or removed.

## **When to call your child's healthcare provider**

Call your healthcare provider right away if any of the following occur:

- Fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher, or as directed by your healthcare provider
- Red or warm skin around the affected eye
- Drainage from the styte
- Trouble seeing from the affected eye
- A styte that won't go away even with treatment
- Stytes that keep coming back