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## BLEPHARITIS

### What is blepharitis?

Blepharitis is a common condition, and is characterized by inflammation of the edges of the eyelids. It does not usually affect your eyesight but can cause mild blurring that comes and goes.

### How does it occur?

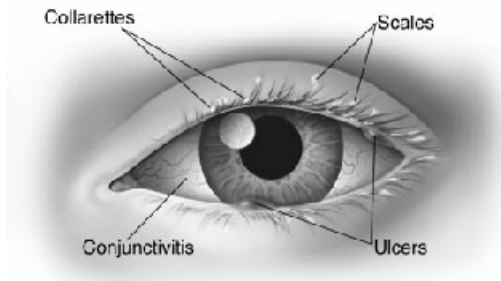
Causes of blepharitis include:

- bacteria or other organisms
- dust, smoke, or other allergens
- a skin condition called rosacea

Sometimes the cause is unknown. Bacteria may cause crusts and particles to form along the eyelashes of some people but not others. People who have dandruff or oily skin are more likely to have blepharitis.



Blepharitis



### What are the symptoms?

Symptoms include:

- irritation, itching, or burning of the skin at the edge of the eyelid
- crusty deposits on the edge of the eyelid that flake off
- red eyelid edges
- matted eyelashes, especially in the morning
- lashes that fall out.

### How is it diagnosed?

Your doctor will examine your eyes using a magnifying instrument. He or she may also examine your scalp. Sometimes a sample of the deposits from your eyelids is sent to a lab to determine if bacteria are present.

### How is it treated?

Blepharitis can be difficult to treat. In general, treatment involves careful washing of your eyelids and lashes. You may need to follow a certain cleansing procedure for

several weeks or months. Your doctor will tell you how often you should follow the cleansing procedure. Your doctor may also prescribe ointment (with or without antibiotics) to help relieve your symptoms. Follow your doctor's instructions carefully. Occasionally, you may need to take antibiotics in pill form.

### **How long will the effects last?**

For some people, blepharitis may never completely go away. For others, cleansing and medicine may cure the problem. Even when symptoms disappear, regular cleansing may help keep blepharitis from returning.

*This content is reviewed periodically and is subject to change as new health information becomes available. The information is intended to inform and educate and is not a replacement for medical evaluation, advice, diagnosis or treatment by a healthcare professional.*