

Watery Eye



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Watery Eye

Tears are formed by the lacrimal gland, which lies beneath the outer part of the upper lid, and by cells in the conjunctival surface of the eye.

Watering of the eye (epiphora)

This is a very common symptom for which there are a wide variety of causes. In general the problem results either from an over production of tears or reduced drainage of tears.

Causes of overproduction of tears

Anything that irritates the eye, such as a foreign body or a scratch to the surface, will result in epiphora. The watering is a protective mechanism to help clear debris away from the eye. Watering also occurs in emotive states or as a response to bright lights.

The most common cause is blepharitis. This condition occurs when there is inflammation in the eyelid glands and sometimes debris accumulates along the lid margin (edge of the eye lid), resulting in irritation. This can be treated with regular lid margin cleansing and may require courses of topical or oral antibiotics.



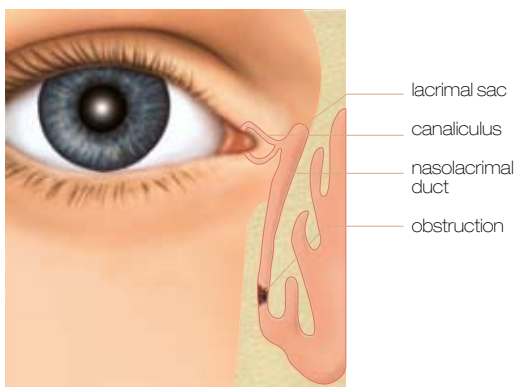


Drainage of tears

Tears are drained from the eye by narrow passages (canaliculi) that begin in the inner corner of the eyelids. These passages drain into a tear sac in the inner corner of the eye (lacrimal sac) and pass down into the nose via a duct (nasolacrimal duct).

Obstruction to tear drainage children

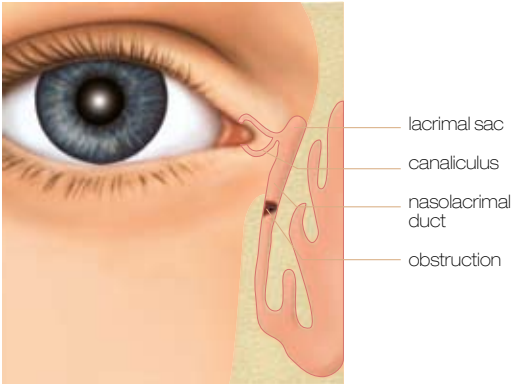
Epiphora is a very common problem, occurring in up to 30% of infants. There is a membrane at the lower end of the nasolacrimal duct, which will open on its own in over 90% of cases by the age of 12 months. If symptoms persist when the child is one year old, the condition can be cured in 95% of cases by passing a probe along the passageways under a brief general anaesthetic. Occasionally, this is performed earlier if the child has particularly troublesome symptoms.



Watery eye (child)

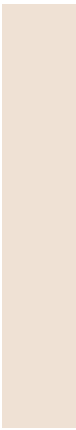
Adults

Watering may occur at any age and results from a gradual narrowing of the upper end of the nasolacrimal duct, generally from chronic inflammation. Syringing the tear ducts may give temporary relief, but this is mainly used to aid in diagnosis. The treatment is to make a new passageway for tears to flow into the nose, bypassing the blocked duct. This is a more major procedure but is generally performed under local anaesthesia with sedation.



Watery eye (adult)

For more information on watery eye please contact our friendly specialist team.



Auckland Eye

life-changing ophthalmic care

New Zealand's largest and most highly specialised Eye Centre offers:

- the best quality care as each ophthalmologist has international and specialist training in specific eye diseases and surgery techniques
- modern day stay facilities for cataract and outpatient ophthalmic surgery
- state-of-the-art laser surgery for refractive errors
- appointments throughout the Auckland and Northland regions

Auckland Eye is dedicated to providing the highest quality service in a caring environment.

From our surgical team through to front desk staff we place your requirements and comfort first. Auckland Eye is the only private sector eye centre in Auckland that has **Quality Health New Zealand** accreditation (QHNZ), for quality of patient care.

Centrally located in Remuera, near Newmarket, our main clinical and surgical facilities provide easy motorway access, off street parking and wheelchair access. Our expanding coverage includes dedicated facilities at the Apollo Clinic in Albany and surgical facilities at Shore Surgical in Milford. In addition to these we provide appointments at a wide range of locations throughout Auckland and north to Whangarei (see our website for locations).

Auckland Eye is an affiliated provider to **Southern Cross Healthcare Society.**



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BSc, FRANZCO

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Dr Alison Pereira
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