

Benign Eyelid Lesions

This material will help you understand benign eyelid lesions and how they are treated.

What are benign eyelid lesions?

Eyelid lesions are cellular changes in your eyelid tissue. These lesions can present as bumps or masses on your eyelid. Eyelid lesions are common and most of them are benign, or harmless.

What causes benign eyelid lesions?

There are a variety of lumps and bumps that may cause eyelid lesions. Some common types of benign lesions are listed below.

- Pigmented lesions - A nevus is the most common pigmented lesion and it is a birthmark. Like many birthmarks, it is often brown.
- Benign cystic tumors - These are small harmless growths of the sweat glands and hair follicles around the eye. They appear rounded and white or yellowish in color.
- Squamous papillomas - These are like very small warts and are caused by a virus. They are harmless, but they can get bigger with time and you can get more of them. They are the most common of the benign epithelial tumors.
- Xanthelasma - This is a raised yellowish lesion caused by lipid build up in the layers of skin on the eyelids. Most often, these occur in older patients. This eyelid lesion may be related to high cholesterol levels.

How are eyelid lesions treated?

Since your eyelid lesion is benign (harmless), your doctor will discuss with you whether or not you want to have it removed. Some patients prefer to have these lesions removed for cosmetic reasons. Others feel that the lesion affects their vision, or causes irritation. If you choose to have the lesion removed, the procedure will most likely be done in the clinic. Your eye doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of removal with you.

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