Blepharitis

Blepharitis is a swelling and irritation (*inflammation*) of the eyelids. This problem causes the eyelids to become red, swollen and scaly. There is often an eye discharge. This discharge can stick the eyelids together overnight. The eyes often have more tearing, burning or itching. The most common cause of blepharitis is a bacterial infection. The infection occurs in the oil glands along the edge of the lid (*margin*). Other common causes include drug and cosmetic allergies and eye irritation from too much rubbing.

Treatment includes cleaning the eyelashes and lid edges with warm water. This cleaning should be done daily until the discharge clears up. Apply warm compresses several times daily. Antibiotic ointment and drops are often prescribed. They may be needed on a long term basis if you get blepharitis frequently.

Avoid using any eye make-up until the lids are normal. If you get blepharitis often, you should avoid makeup.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF YOU DEVELOP:

- Increasing pain.
- Blurring or loss of vision
- A worsening of your condition.
- You have an unexplained fever.
- Your symptoms continue for longer than 3 days.

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