

Medical Treatment

If relief is not attained by implementing the above, there are three methods available for permanent blockage of the tear ducts.

- Laser treatment is used to permanently block the drain opening or punctum. This seals the punctum allowing the tears to remain in your eyes longer, enabling better lubrication.
- Thermocautery or heat may be used to seal the punctum in the same way.
- Silicone plugs are also a permanent solution. These small non-dissolvable plugs are inserted painlessly into the tear ducts to block the ducts and help build up the tear film on the surface of your eye.

To determine if any of these procedures will be beneficial to you, temporary plugs are first placed in the tear duct, by your doctor giving you time to determine if the plugs have a positive impact on your dry eye. The plugs will then dissolve within five to seven days.

Notes:

Your Eye Care is Our Number One Concern

At TLC Eyecare and Laser Centers, we are committed to providing premier eye care service. Our state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment allows early diagnosis of common eye problems such as cataract, glaucoma, macular degeneration, and diabetic retinopathy, often before symptoms occur. Our board-certified ophthalmologists and optometrists use the newest technologies and treatments available in the United States today, allowing us to treat eye ailments safely and effectively.

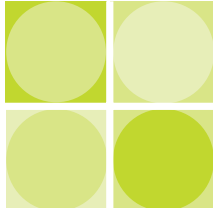
Offering State-of-the-Art Eye Care to Our Patients

Vision is one of the most important of the five senses, and healthy eyes are necessary for good vision. Eye problems can occur at any age, but the chance for developing them increases as we age. Vision problems can affect a person's overall health, causing disability, stress, and a decreased quality of life.

Early detection of eye problems is vital for maintaining healthy eyes. Diagnosing an eye disease in its early stages minimizes its damage and greatly affects the success of treatment. Because many eye ailments have no symptoms until their advanced stages, regular and thorough eye exams with our affiliate network of optometrists are necessary throughout your lifetime to help maintain healthy eyes.

We Make it Easy for You To Maintain Healthy Eyes

With several centers located throughout Michigan and Ohio, our patients enjoy easy access to quality eye care whenever and wherever they need it. Because TLC Eyecare and Laser Centers have doctors on call twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, our patients have immediate access to treatment for unforeseen eye injuries and accidents.

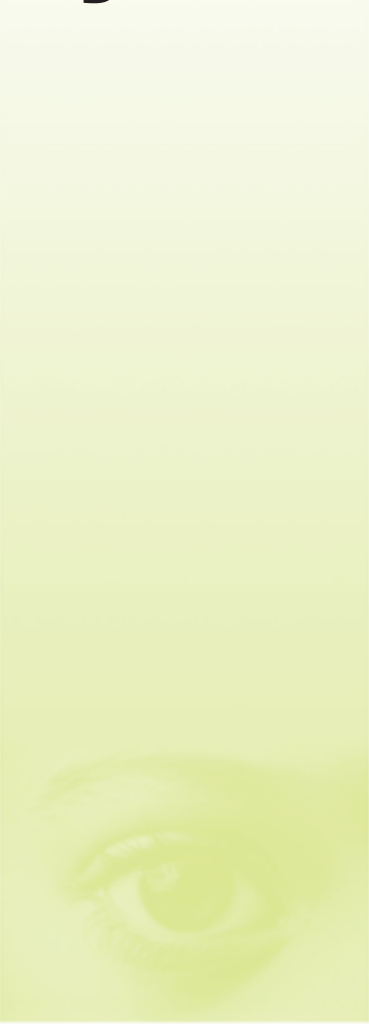


877.TLC.TIME (877.852.8463)
www.tlceyecare.com

Locations Include:
Adrian, Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Bellevue, Big Rapids, Bryan, Chelsea, Farmington Hills, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Sandusky, Toledo



Dry Eye Syndrome



Take a Closer Look®

877.852.8463



Dry Eye Syndrome

What is dry eye syndrome?

Dry eye syndrome is a lack of lubrication and moisture in the eye. Ironically, patients who have dry eyes often have excessive tearing.

What are the symptoms of dry eye?

- Burning eyes
- Scratchy, gritty eyes
- Itchy eyes
- Dry eyes
- Excessive tears or watery eyes
- Sensitivity to light
- Red eyes
- Contact lens discomfort

What are the causes of dry eye?

• Natural aging process

As we age, the production of tears diminishes. At age 65, we produce about 60% fewer tears than we did at age 18. Almost all people tend to get drier eyes as they get older.

• Contact lenses

Wearing contact lenses is one of the leading causes of dry eye, due to the increase in tear evaporation resulting in irritation.

• Disruption of blinking

Since blinking helps lubricate the eye by spreading tears, any disruption of blinking, which can occur with reading and computer work, may result in dry eye.

• Medications

Antihistamines, decongestants, heart medication, birth control pills, certain blood pressure medicines and antidepressants can also cause dry eye.

• Environmental Factors

Sun, wind, smoke and air conditioners can also cause dry eye.

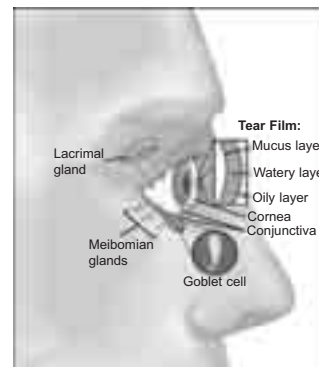
Why do tears run down my face if I have dry eyes?

There are two types of tears produced by the eye, constant and reflex.

Constant tears lubricate the eyes at all times. They are continuously produced for lubrication.

Reflex tears are a more watery type of tears and are only produced in response to irritation, dryness, injury or emotion and help rinse the surface of the eye. When your eye becomes dry and irritated because of a lack of constant tears, the reflex tears are released, sometimes resulting in an abundance of tears.

In a normal eye there is a delicate balance between constant and reflex tears which keep your eyes comfortable and well-lubricated.



Treatment of dry eye

Although there is no known cure for dry eye, it can be controlled using several methods.

At Home Care

- Over-the-counter artificial tears and ointments can be helpful to provide moisture and lubrication for the surface of your eye. You may need to try different types of artificial tears to determine which kind works best for you. These eye drops are made of harmless moisturizing substances and may be used as often as necessary. An ointment is available for more continuous overnight comfort. It is always best to contact your eye doctor before using these medications.

- A humidifier will put more moisture in the air and allow your tears to evaporate more slowly.

- Avoid excessive air movement by decreasing the speed of ceiling and oscillating fans.

- If your eyes are dry mainly while you are reading, working on the computer or watching television, taking frequent breaks to allow your eyes to rest and become moist and comfortable again, can be helpful.

