

Plaza Del Rio Eye Clinic, P.C.

Chalazion

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A chalazion is a localized inflammatory response involving sebaceous glands of the eyelid that occurs when the gland duct is obstructed. A chalazion may resolve spontaneously or with warm compresses, lid scrubs, and lid massage. When there is no improvement, the chalazion may be incised and drained. After local anesthesia, a chalazion instrument is put in place and an incision is made in the eyelid. The contents of the chalazion are then carefully drained with a curette followed by gentle pressure or heat to control any bleeding.

Alternatives to Surgery

1. Lid Hygiene - Warm compresses, lid massage and scrubs; may not improve chalazion if deep.
2. Steroid Injection (less invasive than surgical removal) - May require more than one injection. Can result in depigmentation of the eyelid or steroid deposits at the injection site.
3. No Treatment - I may choose no treatment and tolerate the chalazion.

Risks and Complications

No procedure is entirely risk free. Adverse effects from incision and drainage of chalazion may include:

1. Infection - Infections can be treated with topical or oral antibiotics
2. Bleeding - Normally controlled with gentle pressure or heat cautery at the incision site.
3. Pain - Minimal and resolves with healing of incision.
4. Recurrence - Chalazion may recur.
5. Loss of lashes in the involved area - May occur whether chalazion is treated or not.
6. Eyelid notching in the area of the inflammation