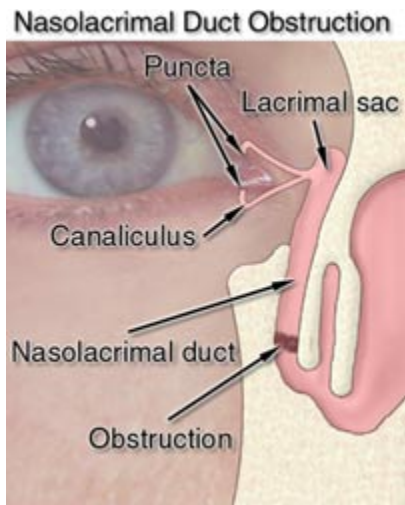


What is Dacryocystorhinostomy?

Dacryocystorhinostomy is a surgery performed to create a new tear drain between the eye and the nose when your current tear drain becomes blocked or obstructed.

What is the Anatomy?

Tears are made primarily by the lacrimal gland, which is anatomically located in the upper lateral aspect of the upper eyelid. With each blink, however, tears are drained from the eye through the tear drainage system, into the nose. There are normally two openings to the



tear drainage system; one in the upper eyelid and one in the lower eyelid.

These tiny orifices are situated along the margin of the eyelid, closest to the nose, and are known as puncta.

The puncta lead to tiny ducts known as canaliculi which lead to the lacrimal sac, situated just along the inside corner of the eye, on the side of the bridge of the nose. Tears are carried from the lacrimal sac down the nasolacrimal duct into the nose. It is usually toward the bottom of the nasolacrimal duct that obstructions of this passageway occur.

How does the tear drain work?

When you blink your eye, your eyelids push tears evenly across your eye to keep your eyes moist and healthy. Blinking also pumps your old tears into the puncta and lacrimal sac where they travel through the tear duct and drain into your nose.

If the tear duct is blocked, your tears back up and spill over your eyelids as if you were crying. Tears trapped in the tear sac also can become stagnant and infected. A Dacryocystorhinostomy can be performed to correct the problem.

What are the symptoms of having a plugged and infected tear drain?

The most common symptoms are excessive watering, mucous discharge, eye irritation, and painful swelling in the inner corner of your eyelids. A skillful history and physical examination can usually pinpoint the cause of tearing. If your symptoms go untreated, an infection can develop around your eye.

What are the treatments?

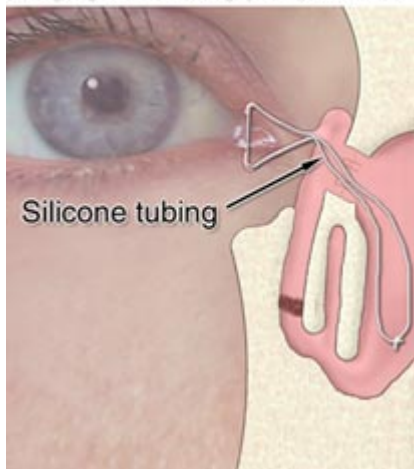
Your surgeon may recommend a number of treatments based on their analysis of your symptoms. In some instances, it may be as simple as applying warm compresses and antibiotics, but often, surgery is the most effective treatment.

The most common surgical solution is the dacryocystorhinostomy. Since its introduction in the early 1900s, the procedure has the highest success rate (more than 90%) for adults who have not had prior nose surgery or disease. The surgery is an outpatient procedure and is usually performed after inflammation is reduced. The recovery is generally one week.

The Dacryocystorhinostomy Procedure

In this procedure, the tear drainage pathways are reconnected to the inside of the nose. A small incision is usually placed approximately midway between the corner of the eye and the bridge of the nose. The lacrimal sac is located, incised, and then connected to the nasal mucosa creating a new tear drainage pathway. Tiny plastic tubes (stents) are then placed in the newly created tear drainage pathway for a few months to prevent scarring of the tear drainage ducts, which might otherwise result in failure of the surgery. The tubes can usually be removed in the office with little if any discomfort or need for anesthesia.

Dacryocystorhinostomy (DCR) Procedure



Ernst Nicolitz, M.D. is a board certified ophthalmologist and fellowship trained in oculoplastics surgery. He is a published surgeon in cosmetic surgery and a leader in cataract and laser surgeries. The team at Nicolitz Eye Consultants includes two ophthalmologists, Drs. Chiel Wind and David Mills and two optometric physicians, Drs. Jennifer Henson and Louis Catania. Our team of physicians utilizes the latest in ophthalmic diagnostic equipment. Along with Dr. Nicolitz, the entire professional and support staff are available to serve your complete

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Dacryocystorhinostomy

DCR for Chronic Infections and Tearing of the Lacrimal System

