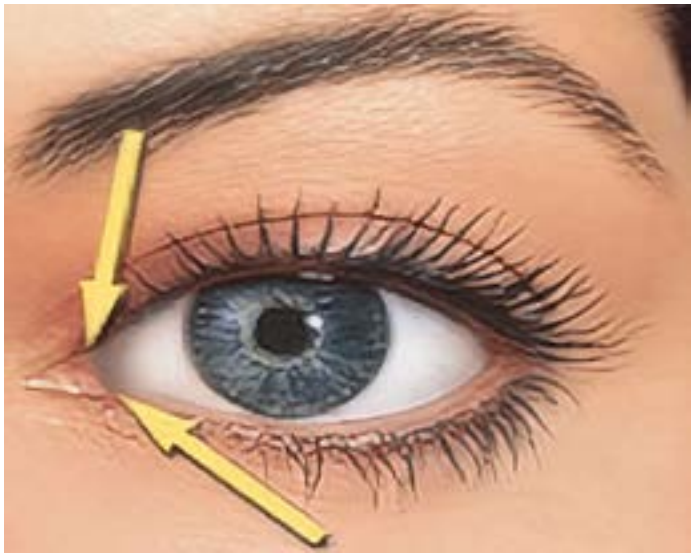
LOTUS VISION

Patient Education

Punctal Plugs

ABOUT YOUR DRY EYES

One way to alleviate dry eyes is to make better and longer use of the small amount of lubricating tears our eyes produce. This is accomplished by closing off the small funnel-like drain hole found in the inner corner of the upper and lower eyelids. These drain holes, called puncta, can be closed with collagen or silicone punctal plugs. The plugs can be placed in the lower ducts of both eyes and occasionally both the upper and lower ducts.



Punctal plugs can be temporary or permanent. Temporary plugs (collagen) dissolve within a few days or weeks after insertion. Permanent plugs (silicone) do not dissolve and last indefinitely unless they fall out.

PUNCTAL OCCLUSION IS FOR THOSE:

- Who have been diagnosed with dry eye
- Whose doctor has determined that punctal occlusion is the appropriate treatment for their condition

WHAT TO EXPECT ON PROCEDURE DAY:

Your treatment will be performed in an examination room. It does not require a surgery center. Once you have been checked in and settled comfortably, drops will be used to numb your eye; no injections or needles are used.

Your doctor will pull your eyelid up and ask you to look toward the outside of your head, away from your nose. Using a forceps-like applicator, the plug will be placed into the corner of your eye and then released. The entire procedure takes only a few minutes. Many patients report immediate relief from dry eye symptoms and may resume normal activities immediately.

REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS:

Serious complications with punctal occlusion are extremely rare, but like any medical procedure, it does have some risks. If you experience side effects, your doctor can remove the plugs. Going to a specialist experienced in punctal occlusion can significantly minimize risks.

If you and your doctor decide that punctal occlusion is an option for you, you will be given additional information about the procedure that will allow you to make an informed decision about whether to proceed.

ADDITIONAL NOTES: