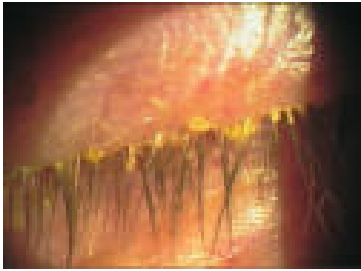


BLEPHARITIS

is an infection of the eyelids. The underlying condition is an inflammation of the lid margins that causes a persistent and unattractive redness and scaliness. Blepharitis is a chronic recurring disease that usually affects the upper and lower eyelids of both the eyes. Blepharitis can be aggravated by a smoky, dry or dusty atmosphere. The most common, and least severe; seborrhoic blepharitis is often associated with dandruff of the scalp or skin conditions like acne.



Acute Purulent



Chronic



Seborrhoic

Causes

Common causes of blepharitis are; poor eyelid hygiene, excess oil produced by the glands in the eyelids; a bacterial infection or an allergic reaction.

Symptoms

Redness of the eyelid margin and crusty scales or flaking around the eyelashes. There may be itching, burning or irritation on the lid margins. Loss of eyelashes and distortion of the margins of the eyelids are common complications in any form of blepharitis. Dilated blood vessels, sties and chalazia may also occur.

Treatment

Gently scrubbing the eyelid margins with baby shampoo diluted with water (1 drop of babyshampoo in ¼ cup of luke warm water, with a cotton bud)) can decrease the amount of flaking skin and oil in the area. This treatment must be carried out on a daily basis while the problem is active. Some patients do not respond adequately to lid hygiene. In these patients, antibiotic drops, in combination with a mild steroid may be effective. Should the condition return, it is best to begin treatment immediately. The sooner the problem is addressed, the more rapid the resolution. It is advisable to seek professional help when you experience this condition.