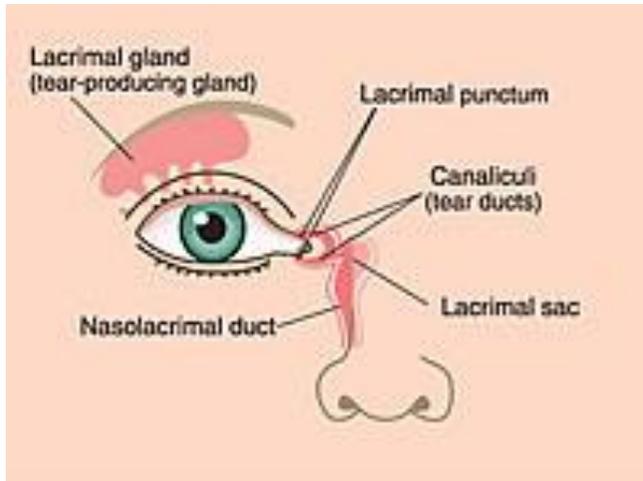


What causes the blocked tear duct?

Delay in the normal development of the nasolacrimal system. This is a common problem and in the majority of children resolves itself by facial growth.

Signs and symptoms

- Excessive tearing
- Crusting of the eyelids
- Mucus or pus discharge from the lids and surface of the eye



What can I do to help?

- Nasolacrimal massage (massaging the inside corner of your child's nose, as directed by a healthcare provider) 2 times a day.
- Cleaning any discharge or matter in the eyes with a warm washcloth

Things to watch out for

- Redness of the white part of the eye
- Painful swelling near the inside corner of the eye.
- Recurrent eye infection or inflammation (pink eye)



What if it does not get better?

If the symptoms do not get better by 12-18 months of age, then an eye surgeon may perform a procedure called syringe and probing under general anesthetic (your child will be asleep). This procedure uses a thin wire which is passed into the tear duct to open it.

Occasionally, a second attempt at syringe and probing is required for the procedure to be successful. Rarely, syringe and probe will not be enough and your child will require further operations, such as placement of a stent (small tube) to keep the tear duct open, this will be discussed in more detail if it is required.