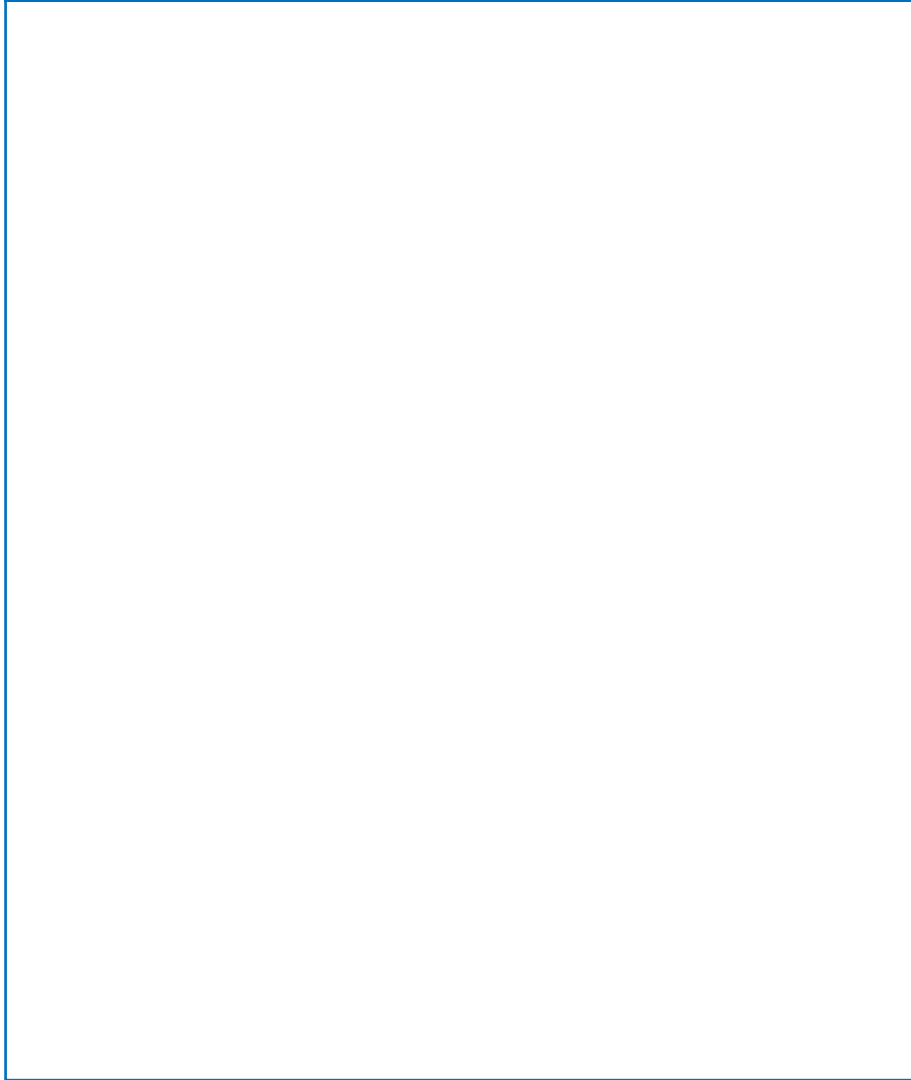



Additional information



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Preseptal Cellulitis

The Eye Unit

This leaflet is for patients who have been
diagnosed with Preseptal Cellulitis

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What is Preseptal cellulitis?

Preseptal cellulitis is a bacterial infection of one or both eyelids, including the soft tissue that surrounds the front of the eye.

What are the symptoms?

One or both eyelids will be swollen. The skin will look red and feel warm to touch. The lids will be tender and sometimes painful. The eye can be red and watery, and there may be a mild fever.

What causes it?

It can be caused by an insect bite; by an injury to the skin surrounding the eye; or by spread of infection from a stye or an infected cyst. Unless there is an obvious eye-related cause, the problem may be linked to a sinus infection.

Preseptal cellulitis is more common in children.

Can the infection spread?

Unless the infection is treated, there is a risk of it spreading to the soft tissue surrounding the eye within the eye socket. This is called Orbital cellulitis, and is potentially a much more serious eye infection.

What is the treatment?

Once the diagnosis has been confirmed by the doctor or nurse practitioner, you will be given a course of antibiotic tablets. You may also need to take pain relief medication to help with any pain or discomfort.

Will I need a follow-up appointment?

The doctor or nurse practitioner may ask you to return after a couple of days to make sure the swelling is going down and the condition is improving with the antibiotic treatment.

What should I do if the infection does not start to improve?

If the infection is not starting to improve after 48 hours, or if you have any new symptoms starting to develop, such as vision changes or it becomes difficult or painful to move the eye, you should ring the Emergency Eye Department as the infection may have spread.

Important information

You can contact the Eye Unit on **0300 019 4181**.

The opening times for the Eye Unit Emergency Eye Department are 8am-6pm on weekdays; 8.30am-6pm on Saturdays and bank holidays); and 8.30am-2pm on Sundays.