

Dermoid Cyst in Children

This material will help you understand dermoid cysts and how they are treated.

What is a dermoid cyst?

A dermoid cyst is an overgrowth of tissue such as skin, hair, and/or fat. It can be located anywhere in the body including the eyes and is not cancerous. There are two main types of dermoid cysts affecting the eyes: orbital and epibulbar. They vary in their location and how they affect vision.

What is an orbital dermoid cyst?

Orbital dermoid cysts are located under the skin next to the bones of the eye socket. They don't typically affect vision, but may change the shape of nearby bones. There is a small risk that the cyst will burst, causing inflammation. If your child has this type of dermoid cyst, your child's eye doctor may recommend that it be removed. These cysts are not usually associated with other diseases.

What is an epibulbar dermoid cyst?

These cysts are located on the surface of the eye. They are usually yellowish, round and smooth. These are sometimes associated with other diseases such as Goldenhar syndrome, linear nevus sebaceous syndrome, or encephalocraniocutaneous lipomatosis. There are two locations where epibulbar dermoid cysts are typically found:

Limbal Dermoids

Limbal dermoids are found at the junction of the cornea and sclera (where the colored and white parts of the eye meet) or over the cornea. They can cause vision loss by changing the shape of the cornea

(astigmatism). They may affect the distribution of tears over the eye, leading to blurry vision. Blurry vision in one eye can lead to amblyopia (lazy eye). Occasionally large dermoids also block vision. If your child has a limbal dermoid, it can be removed to improve the appearance of the eye and decrease irritation. Surgery however may not correct or even worsen astigmatism and refractive error. Your child should be monitored closely for astigmatism and amblyopia

Lipodermoids or Dermolipomas

Lipodermoids or dermolipomas are found inside the eyelids at the outside corners of the eyes. They do not normally cause vision loss and are not usually removed.

For more information, scan these codes with your smartphone or visit the websites listed.



<http://www.aapos.org/terms/conditions/41>

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