

# Trichiasis

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This material will help you understand trichiasis, its causes and how it is treated.

## What is trichiasis?

Trichiasis refers to eyelashes that grow inwards toward the eye instead of outwards. These eyelashes may rub against the inner surface of the eyelids. They may also rub against the surface of your eye, known as the cornea and the conjunctiva. This results in eye irritation, and can even

sometimes result in infection. The cornea is the clear window in the front of the eye (see image above). Its main job is to help focus light as it enters the eyes. The conjunctiva is the clear membrane covering the white part of the eye (see image above).

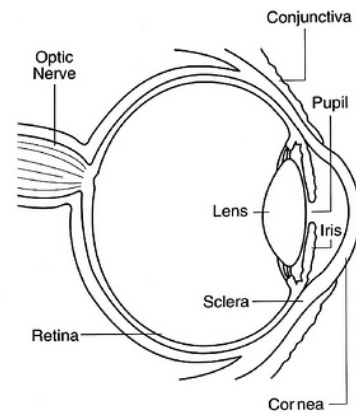


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## What causes trichiasis?

Most commonly, trichiasis is caused by your eyelashes growing in the wrong direction. Sometimes, trichiasis is caused by an eyelid infection, trauma, or inflammation. If your eyelid is not positioned correctly, you can develop trichiasis.

If you have trichiasis, you may feel as if you have something in your eye. You may also have a red eye, a lot of tearing, and light sensitivity.

It is important to see your eye doctor if you have any of these symptoms. Trichiasis may cause a corneal scar or ulcer if they rub against your cornea too long.

### **What is the treatment for trichiasis?**

Trichiasis is sometimes treated very simply by removing the offending eyelashes in the office. If someone develops trichiasis that recurs, the entire hair follicle may need to be removed through a special laser procedure. If trichiasis is caused by an eyelid that is turned inward, you may need eyelid surgery to correct the problem. Talk with your doctor about the best treatment for you.

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



<http://www.geteyesmart.org/eyesmart/diseases/trichiasis.cfm>



<http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/1213321-overview>

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