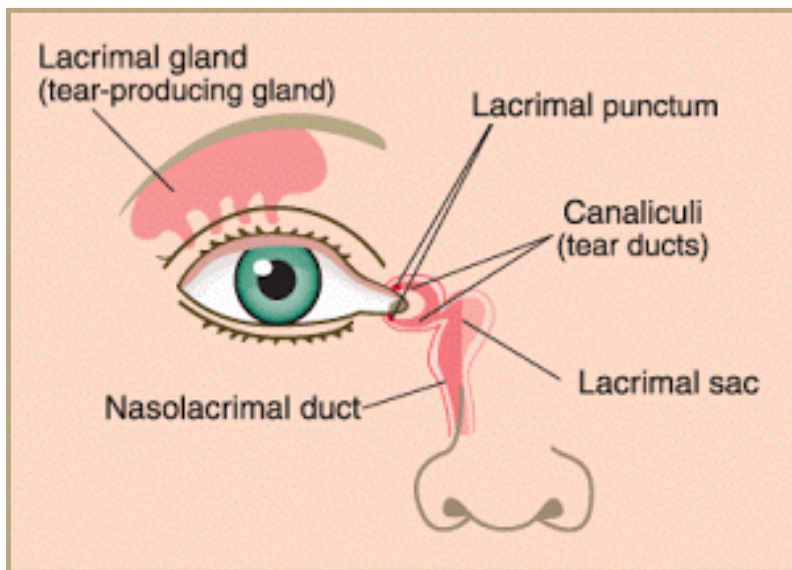


BLOCKED TEAR DUCTS

What are blocked tear ducts?

A watery, sticky eye may be caused by a blocked tear duct. The tear ducts drain excess tears from your eye to your nose. This is why your nose runs if you cry.

In babies, the naso-lacrimal duct is narrow and blocks easily. Sometimes it doesn't open properly during its development. This results in a watery, sticky eye.



How is it treated?

Massaging of the lacrimal sac and canaliculi can open up the passage to the nose. Your doctor can show you how to do this.

Occasionally the duct must be opened with a fine probe and washed out. It is performed under a

short general anaesthetic. No cutting or stitches are involved. This is effective most of the time. If unsuccessful, further more complex surgery may be required, such as the insertion of a tube into the nasolacrimal duct.

Please note that these are general guidelines. If in doubt, consult your ophthalmologist.