

Complications & Clinical Management

Complication	Presentation	Management
Epiphora	Constant tearing, overflow onto cheeks	Remove upper punctal plugs first. If persists, remove lower plugs. Reassess drainage system patency.
Plug Extrusion	Patient reports plug "fell out" or no longer visible	Common (10–15% in first 3 months). Replace with larger or different design. Intracanalicular plugs have lower extrusion rate.
Canaliculitis	Erythema, discharge at medial canthus, "pouting punctum"	Remove plug immediately. Culture discharge. Treat with topical and/or oral antibiotics. Consider irrigation once resolved.
Pyogenic Granuloma	Red, fleshy growth at punctum, may bleed	Rare but requires plug removal. May need excision/removal. Prevent by ensuring proper plug sizing and placement.
Migration into Canaliculus	Plug no longer visible, symptoms worsen or unchanged	Can spontaneously pass or require irrigation. If symptomatic or obstructive, patient may need canalicular exploration.