



Mary has a bacterial infection of one of the oil glands at the edge of the eyelids known as a stye. External styes can also form on the outside of the lids and can be seen as small red bumps; internal styes, like Mary's, appear on the lining underneath the eyelids. They contain water and pus; the bacteria will spread if the stye is forcefully ruptured. Most styes are harmless and heal on their own without special treatment in 5-10 days.

Mary should avoid wearing her contact lenses until completely healed and apply warm compresses four times a day for 10 minutes to speed healing. DO NOT squeeze or puncture the stye as this will spread the infection. Antibiotic creams may help recurrent or persistent styes. Some large styes need to be lanced to drain the infection. Begin a Level 3 EVAC if irritation persists beyond a week or her vision becomes blurry.