
Lacrimal Apparatus

The lacrimal apparatus is a term used to describe the structures of the eye that secrete tears and drain them from the surface of the eyeball. (See Figure 3.1-2) The lacrimal apparatus includes:

1) Lacrimal glands

The **lacrimal glands*** are located in a depression of the frontal bone at the upper, outer margin of each orbit. Small, excretory ducts drain the tears onto the conjunctiva at the upper, outer corner of the eye.

2) Lacrimal ducts

The **lacrimal ducts*** are two small channels located above and below each **caruncle*** (small red body at the inner canthus). The lacrimal ducts drain into the lacrimal sacs. The openings into the ducts are known as **punctae*** and appear as the two small dots at the inner canthus of the eye.

3) Lacrimal sacs

The **lacrimal sacs*** are located in a groove in the lacrimal bone.

The lacrimal sacs serve as temporary storage sites for tears before they drain into the **nasolacrimal ducts***.

Figure 3.1-2: Lacrimal Apparatus

