



# Corneal Abrasion

## Patient Information Leaflet

## **What is a corneal abrasion?**

The cornea is the transparent covering over the coloured part of the eye.

When the cornea is scratched or abraded, the underlying layer and its sensitive nerve endings are exposed. This is accompanied by pain, watering, light sensitivity and sometimes reduced vision or the feeling of something in the eye.

## **What is the treatment?**

Treatment Varies depending on the severity of the injury.

Drops will be inserted into the eye that will help ease the pain and enable thorough examination of your eye.

Your pupil (the black part in the centre) may be dilated with drops.

- An antibiotic drop or ointment to protect the healing process as new growth occurs.
- A pad may be applied for your comfort.
- A bandage contact lens may be required in severe cases.
- Painkillers may be taken at home.

Remember, even with all of the above treatments, a corneal abrasion is a very painful injury, but usually heals well within 24-72 hours.

Please note the anaesthetic drop used by the doctor or nurse for examination wears off in approximately 20 minutes.

Although this drop gives you great pain relief, it would prevent the cornea from healing if used repeatedly.

## **What are the complications?**

In some people, the new top layer does not attach itself very well to the underlying layer as the scratch heals. It can be easily disturbed, causing the symptoms to recur.

You may need to use ointment that lubricates the surface, especially at nighttime.

It is possible for symptoms to re appear years after the original injury.

We hope that this information is helpful to you. If anything is unclear or you have any other questions you would like to ask, then please do ask the nurse/doctor.

**Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital  
Accident & Emergency Department  
01 7088535**

Revision History

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