

CORNEAL ABRASION AND RECURRENT EROSION SYNDROME

What is a corneal abrasion?

The cornea is commonly known as the window of the eye and covers the coloured part of the eye.

An abrasion is a scratch on the surface of the cornea. Unlike a scratch on the surface of the skin, it is usually very painful.

What treatment will I need?

The treatment that you will be given is aimed at ensuring that the abrasion heals as quickly as possible and that it does not become infected.

Initially, an antibiotic drop or ointment will be instilled and in some cases an eye drop to dilate your pupil.

Dilating drops will cause your vision to be blurred temporarily. An eye pad may also be applied to forcibly close your eye and help the cornea heal.

Remember...

When wearing an eye pad your eye should always remain closed. You will also be advised not to drive or use machinery, as your judgement of distances will be affected.

If you have had your eyes dilated you should not drive until the effects of the drops have worn off.

How long does the abrasion take to heal?

If the treatment is followed correctly, healing will take place within 24 to 36 hours (dependant on the size of the abrasion). The discomfort will subside as the cornea heals.

If you experience any lasting discomfort in the eye you should return to the Ophthalmic Outpatients Department for further assessment.

What is Recurrent Erosion Syndrome?

A small number of people who have had a corneal abrasion can continue to have, or redevelop a painful eye. This is due to the surface of the cornea not healing as it should. These symptoms often occur in the morning when waking up.

To reduce the risk of this happening, you may be advised to use a lubricating eye drop and / or ointment in the eye (following the treatment and healing of the corneal abrasion).

The ointment will need to be instilled in the eye, at night, prior to going to sleep. The lubricating drops should be used if the eye feels dry during the day.

If you would like any further advice, please contact the Ophthalmic Emergency Referral Service (Eye Casualty) on: 01603 288632

Hours of Service:	Monday – Friday	08:30 – 17:30
	Saturday	09:00 – 12:30

If you have an Ophthalmic Emergency outside of these hours please ring 01603 286286 and ask for the on-call Ophthalmologist (Eye Doctor)

Additional Information:



This information leaflet is one of a series produced for patients and is aimed at answering questions on the care of common eye conditions.