

# CORNEAL FOREIGN BODY

## **What is a corneal foreign body?**

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

A corneal foreign body is something lodged into the surface of the eye, making it water and painful. The eye may also be sensitive to light (photophobic) and have blurred vision.

## **What treatment will I need?**

The best way to stop foreign bodies from hitting your eye is to use safety goggles when operating any sort of machinery, especially when using grinders or drills.

Even with the corneal foreign body removed and antibiotic treatment, corneal infections can still develop and become sight threatening.

## **Prevention is better than cure!**

## **What to look out for after having a foreign body removed?**

The eye will be painful for 24 to 36 hours until the cornea has healed.

## **How do I recognise if I am developing problems after having a corneal foreign body removed?**

You should contact the number below immediately if you develop any of the following:

- **Increased sticky discharge from the eye. Increased light sensitivity (photophobia)**
- **Blurred vision after the dilating drops have worn off. Increased redness or persistent pain**

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

|                          |                        |                      |
|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Hours of Service:</b> | <b>Monday – Friday</b> | <b>08:30 – 17:30</b> |
|                          | <b>Saturday</b>        | <b>09:00 – 12:30</b> |

**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.

