

# **CORNEAL ABRASION**

## *Information Leaflet*



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# **CORNEAL ABRASION**

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**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.**

## **TREATMENT**

- Drops will be inserted into the eye that will help ease the pain and enable thorough examination of your eye. The black part in the centre of your eye (pupil) will look bigger.
- An antibiotic drop or ointment to protect the healing process as new growth occurs.
- A pad may be applied for your comfort.
- 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 24-48 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.

## **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 night time.

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