



# **Corneal Foreign Body**

**Your Questions Answered**

**Patient Information Leaflet**

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

A corneal foreign body is a piece of dust or metal that has become stuck on the clear front surface of the eye. This happens frequently as a result of working with metal such as using an angle grinder, welding and drilling. It may take several hours before the eye becomes sore after the foreign body has stuck to the eye.

## **What is the Treatment?**

Drops are put into the eye in order to numb it. The foreign body will then be removed from the surface of the eye using a needle or cotton bud.

Antibiotic drops or ointment may be prescribed in order to prevent infection from occurring at the site where the foreign body has been removed from.

The eye may be padded to help with the soreness in which case you will not be able to drive.

It is recommended to take pain relieving tablets such as Paracetamol or Ibuprofen in order to help with the pain which may still be experienced after foreign body removal.

If rust has spread from the foreign body into the surrounding area of the eye it may not be possible to remove it all at the first visit. It may then be necessary to return to the hospital after several days for further rust removal.

Healing should take place within one to three days once the foreign body and all rust have been removed.

## **Prevention**

Foreign bodies can leave small scars on the surface of the eye and if this happens on the central part of the cornea some permanent reduction of vision can occur. It is always best to prevent foreign bodies from reaching the eyes in the first place. The best way to do this is to always wear suitable eye protection when working with metal or doing any drilling or hammering.

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 before the procedure.

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## Revision History