

# Corneal abrasion

Eye Clinic  
Tel: 01271 322467

## Other formats

If you need this information in another format such as audio CD, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language, please contact the PALS desk on 01271 314090 or at [rduh.pals-northern@nhs.net](mailto:rduh.pals-northern@nhs.net).

## What is a corneal abrasion?

The cornea is the 'window' of your eye, and covers the coloured iris. A corneal abrasion is a scratch on the surface of the cornea, caused by injury. A scratch on the surface of your eye is usually very painful.

## What are the symptoms?

Pain, redness, excessive watering and blurring of the vision.

## How is it treated?

Anti-biotic drops or ointment will be prescribed, and in some cases eyedrops will be given to dilate your pupil. Dilating drops will cause your vision to be temporarily blurred whilst you are using the dilating drops. In some cases an eye pad may be applied for 24 – 48 hours. **Do not drive or use machinery, as your judgment of distances will be affected if your eye is padded or your pupil dilated.**

## What is the expected outcome of treatment?

It is usual for healing to take place within 36-48 hours and the discomfort will reduce as the cornea heals.

Your treatment will usually be prescribed for five to seven days

After your abrasion has healed, if you are waking in the morning with a painful eye and the pain persists throughout the day, this might mean that the surface of your eye has not fully healed. We would then advise you to contact the eye department for further treatment.

## Follow-up

You may be given a follow up appointment in the eye clinic if the doctor or nurse treating you feels this is necessary.

## Further information

If you have any further questions or concerns. Please ask any member of the medical or nursing team or contact the eye clinic Monday to Thursday 9am to 5pm or Friday 9am to 1pm.

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## PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern call 01271 314090 or email [rduh.pals-northern@nhs.net](mailto:rduh.pals-northern@nhs.net). You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple.

## Have your say

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

Tell us about your experience of our services. Share your feedback on the Care Opinion website [www.careopinion.org.uk](http://www.careopinion.org.uk).

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Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust  
Raleigh Park, Barnstaple  
Devon EX31 4JB  
Tel. 01271 322577  
[www.royaldevon.nhs.uk](http://www.royaldevon.nhs.uk)

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