



Urgent care

Corneal abrasion

What is a corneal abrasion?

This is a small wound on the clear covering of your eye, which causes pain and may feel like you have something in your eye. The pain might be quite bad, even from a small scratch, as the cornea is very sensitive.

How is it treated?

A small corneal abrasion will usually heal itself within 48 - 72 hours. However, as the covering of your eye has a wound on it, it is susceptible to infection. Therefore you will be given eye ointment to help prevent infections. This is likely to be chloramphenicol ointment which has anti-bacterial properties.

How to use your medication

1. Stand in front of a mirror and pull down the lower lid of your eye to reveal the red lining.
2. Remove the cap from the tube and squeeze a line of ointment into the groove between the lid and the eyeball.
3. Blink to distribute the ointment. You will find this blurs your vision initially but this will fade as the ointment dissolves.

Take simple pain relief such as paracetamol for the discomfort. Do not exceed the recommended dose.

If you normally wear contact lenses, do not wear them while the cornea is healing or while using anti-bacterial medication.

You may have an eye patch applied (or be recommended to wear sunglasses) if you have had anaesthetic drops inserted. Keep this on until the effects of the drops have worn off.

Signs of infection in the eye include:

- redness
- discharge
- blurred vision
- gritty sensation

If you get any of these symptoms please see your GP. If your symptoms change or do not improve then please call the eye casualty on 01865 234 800.

Prevention of corneal injuries

Always wear eye protection when working with a saw, drill etc as these may cause small particles to become airborne.

Individual management plan

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Concerns and complaints

We aim to provide you with a high quality service at all times. However, if you have any concerns, complaints or comments about your experience of our service then please tell a member of the team or contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service on freephone 0800 328 7971.

For further advice please contact:

Abingdon Minor Injury Unit	01865 903 476
Henley Minor Injury Unit	01865 903 755
Witney Minor Injury Unit	01865 903 841
Wallingford First Aid Unit	01865 903 471
Bicester First Aid Unit	01865 903 976

If you need the information in another language or format please ask us

Nëse ky informacion ju nevojitet në një gjuhë apo format tjetër, ju lutem na kontaktoni

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اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی دوسری زبان میں یا کسی دوسرے طریقہ سے درکار ہیں تو براہ کرم ہم سے پوچھیں۔۔

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This service is part of our Older People Directorate.

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