

Corneal foreign bodies

Eye Clinic

Tel: 01271 322467

This is a term used to describe a small particle that has become adherent to or embedded in the surface of the cornea. This will cause irritation to the outer front surface of the eye.

After the foreign body is removed, a small wound is left on the cornea. This usually starts to heal in 36–48 hours. However, the length of time may vary depending on how deeply the foreign body was embedded, the type of material and how long the foreign body has been on the surface of the eye.

Deeply embedded corneal foreign bodies may cause permanent scarring. If this scarring is in the middle of the cornea, your vision may become permanently blurred. You may be advised to see your optician if your vision remains blurred after the surface of your eye has healed. In the majority of cases your vision will return to normal.

Following removal of a corneal foreign body, the surface of the eye will be treated with antibiotic eye drops to prevent infection. You may also be prescribed painkillers to help with any discomfort. Your vision may be temporarily blurred for a few days. In the majority of cases your vision will return to normal.

If you have any questions or concerns please ask any member of the medical or nursing team or contact the Eye Clinic, Monday to Thursday 9am to 5pm, 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. 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.