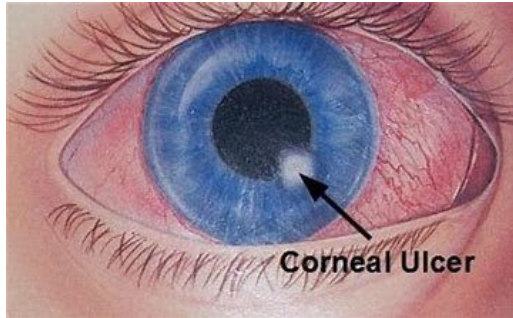


Corneal Ulcer

What is a corneal ulcer?

The cornea is a dome shaped, clear, protective outer layer of the eye. It helps to protect the eye from foreign bodies and is very important to see. A corneal ulcer is an open sore on the cornea, and is usually caused by an eye infection, severe dry eye or other eye diseases.



What are the causes of a corneal ulcer?

1. Bacteria
2. Fungus
3. Amoebae
4. Mycobacteria
5. Viruses
6. Immune Disease

How do I know if I have one?

Symptoms include: Redness of the eye, severe pain and soreness of the eye, the feeling of having something in your eye, tearing, pus or other discharge blurred vision, sensitivity to light swelling of the eyelids, or white spot on your cornea that you may or may not be able to see.

What can I do if I have a corneal ulcer?

The doctor usually will prescribe eye drops: like antibiotics, an antifungal or antiviral. In other cases the doctor may prescribe antifungal tablets or an injection of medication will be given close to the eye. When the infection goes away, then steroid or anti-inflammatory eyedrops may be used to reduce swelling and help prevent any scarring that can occur. However the use of steroid eyedrops is controversial and should only be used by your eye doctor. In some cases the steroid eyedrops may worsen the infection. Also oral pain medication may also be prescribed for pain.

What should I do if I'm still having symptoms?

If your symptoms continue after your treatment like: pain and redness of the eye, tearing and discharge from the eye and blurry vision, you should tell your ophthalmologist as soon as possible to see what other treatments you can start. If the corneal ulcer cannot be treated with medications, surgery may be needed to keep your vision.