

**hughes
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OPHTHALMIC OPTICIANS

CORNEAL FOREIGN BODY

Inflammation Red eye Watery eye Flashing lights
Antibiotic Eye drops Painkillers
Retinal detachment Viral infection Cornea Retinal tear
Vitreous gel Inflammation Blurred
Blurred vision Large floaters vision
Eye drops Red eye Inflammation Antibiotic
Cornea Light sensitivity Watery eye Flashing lights
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What is it?

Corneal Foreign Body is the term used to describe material sticking to the cornea (window of the eye). It may be windblown or occur whilst undertaking DIY, gardening, hammering or grinding.

Symptoms include:

- The eye may be red and watery
- Increased sensitivity to light
- A gritty sensation
- Some pain may be experienced

Treatment involves local anaesthetic drops, removal of the foreign body, antibiotic eye ointment to heal any resulting defect in the surface of the cornea and painkillers.

Removal of the foreign body may involve flushing the eye with saline, using a sterile cotton bud, a sterile needle or an Alger brush.

Afterwards, there will be a defect in the surface of the cornea (abrasion). This will be sore until the cornea heals over the next 24 hours. Initially the eye will be painless due to the use of anaesthetic drops and becoming sorer later as the anaesthetic wears off.

Sometimes your Optometrist may refer you to the Hospital for further investigation or follow up.

Should the pain and redness increase the day following your treatment, you should contact the Practice where you were examined.

You should tell the person answering the phone that you are being treated for a corneal foreign body, explain that you feel things have changed and say that you need an emergency assessment.

If you are unable to do this, contact your GP or NHS24 on 111.

Unless you are told otherwise, the correct dosage for the drugs used to treat this condition are:

- Chloramphenicol 1% eye ointment (an antibiotic) four times a day for five days
 - If you are known to be allergic to Chloramphenicol , Fusidic acid 1% liquid gel will be used instead
- See your local Pharmacist for painkillers (paracetamol or Ibuprofen (dosage depends on age))

What should you do to prevent further episodes?

Use suitable eye protection, particularly if undertaking hammering, grinding, or DIY activities.

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