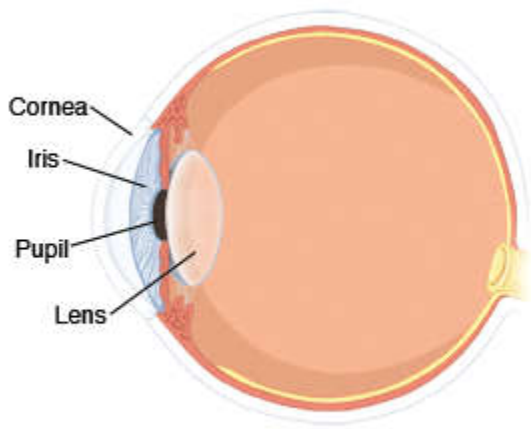


## Corneal Abrasion



You have received a scratch or scrape (abrasion) to your cornea. The cornea is the clear part in the front of the eye. This sensitive area is very painful when injured. You may make tears frequently, and your vision may be blurry until the injury heals. You may be sensitive to light.

This part of the body heals quickly. You can expect the pain to go away within 24 to 48 hours. If the abrasion is large or deep, your doctor may apply an eye patch, although this is not always done. An antibiotic ointment or eye drops may also be used to prevent infection.

Numbing drops may be used to relieve the pain temporarily so that your eyes can be examined. But these drops can't be prescribed for home use because that would prevent healing and lead to more serious problems. Also, if you can't feel your eye, there is a chance of accidentally injuring it further without knowing it.

### Home care

- A cold pack may be applied over the eye (or eye patch) for 20 minutes at a time, to reduce pain. To make a cold pack, put ice cubes in a plastic bag that seals at the top. Wrap the bag in a clean, thin towel or cloth.
- You may use acetaminophen or ibuprofen to control pain, unless another pain medicine was prescribed. Note: If you have chronic liver or kidney disease or have ever had a stomach ulcer or GI bleeding, talk with your doctor before using these medicines.
- Rest your eyes and don't read until symptoms are gone.
- If you use contact lenses, don't wear them until all symptoms are gone.

- If your vision is affected by the corneal abrasion or if an eye patch was applied, don't drive a motor vehicle or operate machinery until all symptoms are gone. You may have trouble judging distances using only one eye.
- If your eyes are sensitive to light, try wearing sunglasses, or stay indoors until symptoms go away.

### **Follow-up care**

Follow up with your healthcare provider, or as advised.

- If no patch was put on your eye and the pain continues for more than 48 hours, you should have another exam. Contact your healthcare provider to arrange this.
- If your eye was patched and you were asked to remove the patch yourself, see your healthcare provider. Contact your healthcare provider if you still have pain after the patch is removed.
- If you were given a return appointment for patch removal and re-examination, be sure to keep the appointment. Leaving the patch in place longer than advised could be harmful.

### **When to seek medical advice**

Call your healthcare provider right away if any of these occur.

- Increasing eye pain or pain that does not improve after 24 hours
- Discharge from the eye
- Increasing redness of the eye or swelling of the eyelids
- Worsening vision
- Symptoms get worse after the abrasion has healed