



## Corneal Scarring

Corneal scarring refers to an irregularity of the cornea that causes opacity, or decreased clarity (like frost on a windshield), which can lead to irritation, discomfort, or blurred vision. Scarring of the cornea has many causes. Treatment may depend on the type of scar (the location, size, depth, and density) and the individual's situation (affecting ability to drive or work, for example). If the scarring is causing significant visual problems or discomfort, and glasses, contact lenses, medications, or conservative measures do not help, then a surgical procedure may be required.

Some of the possible causes of corneal scarring include:

- Abrasion and trauma (mechanical trauma, chemical injury, heat burn).
- Anterior basement membrane dystrophy (map-dot-fingerprint dystrophy), a hereditary genetic abnormality of the epithelium and basement membrane that leads to scar tissue deposition.
- Other hereditary dystrophies (Lattice, Granular, Macular, crystalline).
- Salzmann's nodular degeneration, a calous-like scar tissue that forms under the epithelium of the cornea, commonly occurring in areas of corneal inflammation or prior infection.
- Calcific band keratopathy, a deposition of calcium in the anterior cornea due to corneal disease, intra-ocular disease or a hereditary predisposition.
- Other degenerations (Terrien marginal, amyloid, lipid)
- Other opacities (medicine-related deposits, post-infection)

Anterior disease of the cornea can cause dryness, irritation, pain, recurrent erosions, or irregular astigmatism. These symptoms can affect activities of daily living and quality of life. Initial treatment, like lubrication and other medications, is focused on minimizing symptoms. If conservative measures do not work, surgical

options can be considered.

Each patient's eye is different. The description above may not apply to every individual situation. Your doctor will perform a full evaluation and discuss her findings thoroughly. A treatment regimen will be planned and re-evaluated throughout follow-up visits. Please contact your doctor if you feel you have a corneal opacity or if you have any concerns or questions regarding your ocular health.