



Corneal Swelling (edema)

Corneal edema (swelling) can sometimes develop after eye surgery, especially after cataract surgery. Some terms for corneal edema after cataract surgery include “pseudophakic corneal edema,” “pseudophakic bullous keratopathy,” and “aphakic bullous keratopathy.” Also notable among the causes of corneal edema is Fuchs corneal endothelial dystrophy, sometimes also termed “Fuchs dystrophy.”

Abnormal swelling of the cornea is more likely to occur in people 50 years of age and older. Early symptoms of corneal edema might include blurred vision or haloes, often in the early morning. Very mild corneal edema may not require any treatment. In some cases, a physician may recommend use of a concentrated saline eye drops to draw fluid from the affected eye, thereby reducing the corneal swelling. Ultimately, if swelling of the cornea progresses to a level that a person’s vision is substantially impaired, a corneal surgeon can transplant either the entire cornea or just the abnormal endothelial (inner) layer of the cornea from an organ donor. Surgeons have performed cornea transplants for more than 100 years, and more than 40,000 are currently performed in the United States each year.

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 swelling or if you have any concerns or questions regarding your ocular health.