

# Band Keratopathy

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This material will help you understand band keratopathy, its causes, and how it may be treated.

## What is band keratopathy?

Band keratopathy is a line or band that appears across the center of the cornea. The cornea is the clear window in the front of the eye. It helps focus light into your eye. The band forms when calcium deposits collect in this area. This decreases vision and sometimes causes eye irritation or redness.

## What causes band keratopathy?

Band keratopathy has many causes. Common causes include eye trauma, eye surgery, or eye inflammation. High amounts of calcium in the blood (hypercalcemia) can also lead to band keratopathy. This is usually due to a systemic disease (those that affect the entire body) such as sarcoidosis, kidney disease, or hyperparathyroidism.

In some cases, the cause of band keratopathy is not known.

## How is band keratopathy treated?

Treatment of band keratopathy is not always needed. To reduce any irritation or redness, your doctor may recommend using artificial tear drops. Sometimes a procedure known as **superficial keratectomy with chelation** is used to treat band keratopathy. Chelation involves the use of a chemical called EDTA, which binds to the calcium to remove it from the cornea.

Any underlying conditions should also be treated (if they exist) to prevent your band keratopathy from returning.

You and eye doctor will discuss the treatment that is best for you.

**For more information, scan this code with your smartphone or visit the website listed.**



<http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/1194813-overview#a0101>

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