

Corneal Opacity (Scar)

This material will help you understand corneal opacities, their causes, and treatment.

What is a corneal opacity?

The cornea is the clear window in the front of the eye (see picture on the right). The retina is like the film of the eye. It captures images to send to the brain. In order for images to be captured properly in the retina, the cornea must remain clear. A corneal opacity or scar will prevent the light and the image from being properly transmitter to the retina. Images can become distorted, leading to decreased vision. Corneal opacities are caused by anything that can lead to a scar. Most common causes are eye injuries and infections.

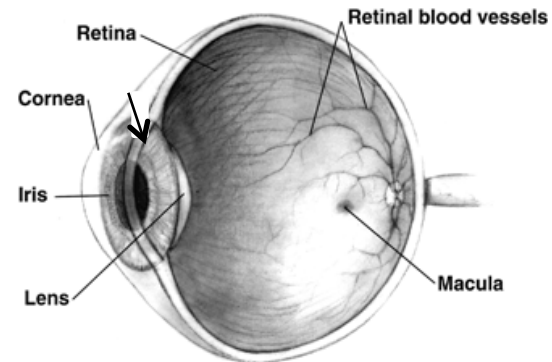


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What is the treatment for corneal opacities?

There are a few ways to remove scar tissue from the cornea. The best way for you partly depends on what caused the scar in the first place.

Very mild corneal opacities, or scars, may not need to be treated. Wearing special contact lenses can sometimes improve vision. They can work to “smooth” the irregular surface caused by the scar.

Some people need a corneal transplant to remove the scar tissue, especially if the scarring was more severe. Other times, small amounts of scar tissue can be removed with a laser treatment. Your eye doctor will discuss the best treatment for you.

For more information, scan these codes with your smartphone or visit the websites listed.



<http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/1197148-overview>



<http://www.geteyesmart.org/eyesmart/diseases/corneal-transplant.cfm>

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