

# Conditions of the cornea - Fuchs' endothelial dystrophy (FED) and pseudophakic bullous keratopathy (PBK)

Ophthalmology Department

Information for Patients

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## What are FED and PBK?

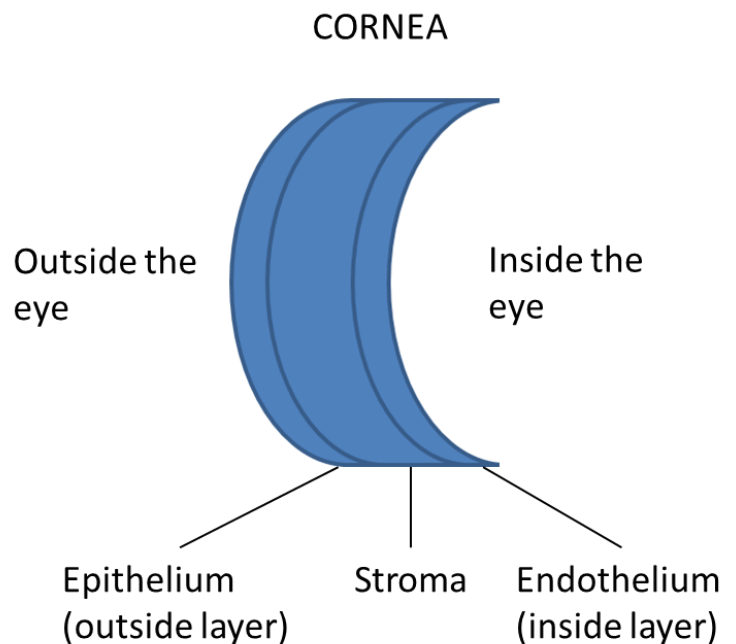
Fuchs' endothelial dystrophy (FED) and pseudophakic bullous keratopathy (PBK) are both diseases of the transparent layer forming the front of the eye (cornea).

They are caused by loss of cells from the inner most layer of the cornea. This layer is needed to prevent the cornea from swelling up with fluid.

FED is a genetic condition that is more common in females and with age.

PBK happens as a complication after cataract surgery.

The diagram to the right shows the layers of the cornea.  
The endothelium layer is where the cells are lost.



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or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

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## How are FED and PBK diagnosed?

### You may:

- have gradual loss of vision (often worse in the morning).
- see halos around lights.
- feel grittiness and pain.
- have sensitivity to light.
- have watery eyes.

### Your doctor will look for:

- small bumps (guttata) on the inside of your cornea.
- swelling of your cornea.
- scarring on your cornea.

## How can FED and PBK be treated?

Early on, these diseases may not cause symptoms and your doctor will monitor the condition. Mild symptoms can be treated with simple measures to dry the cornea, such as using a hair dryer to blow warm air on the eyes, or concentrated drops/ ointment (sodium chloride 5%).

If the disease becomes more severe, it can be treated with special contact lenses (bandage contact lenses) or surgery to replace the damaged layers of the cornea (corneal graft).

## Further information

- [www.nib.org.uk/eye-health-eye-conditions-z-eye-conditions/fuchs-dystrophy](http://www.nib.org.uk/eye-health-eye-conditions-z-eye-conditions/fuchs-dystrophy)
- [www.fuchs-dystrophy.org.uk](http://www.fuchs-dystrophy.org.uk)

## Contact details

If you have any questions about your condition, please contact the Corneal Specialist Nurse on Tel: 07970 940125 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm).

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