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Surgery to remove surface of your cornea to help improve your eye condition (alcohol delamination)

Ophthalmology Department

Information for Patients

Last reviewed: July 2026
Next review: July 2029
Leaflet number: 872 Version: 4

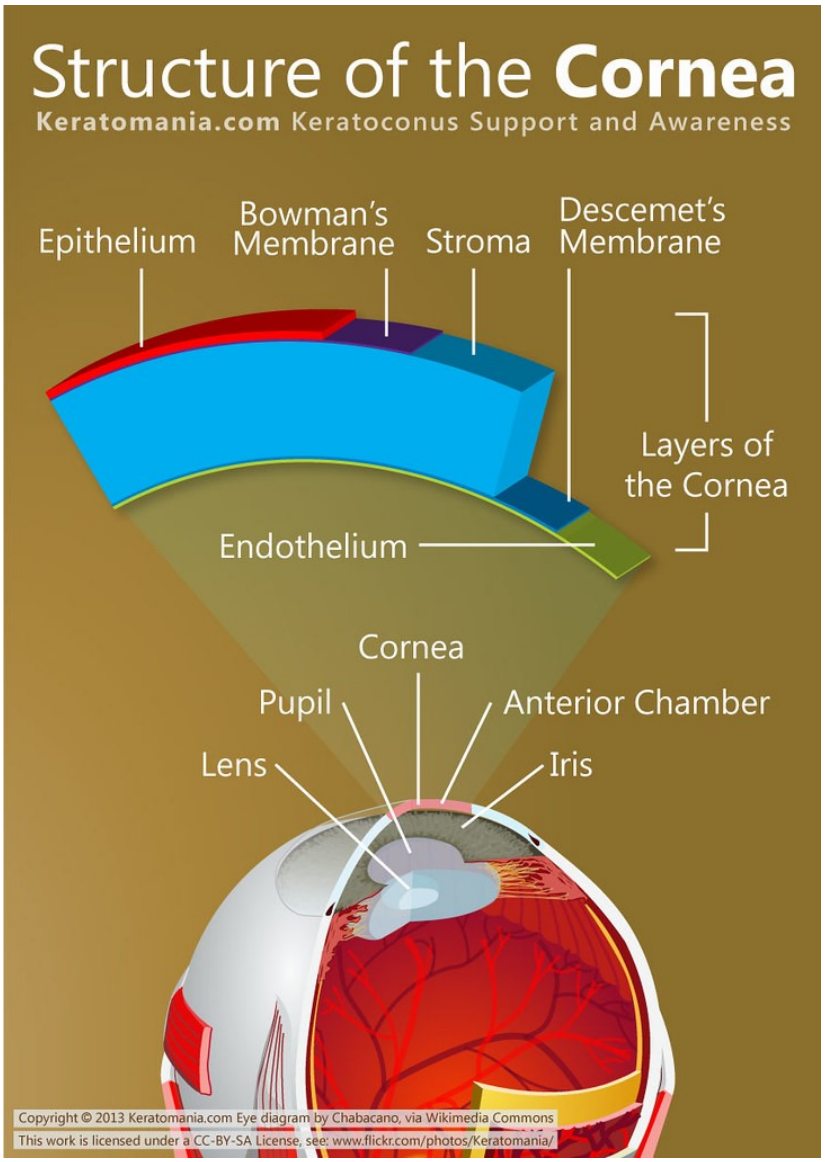
Introduction

The cornea has 5 layers.

This procedure involves taking off the outside layer.

It is most often done for people with epithelial erosions. Visit: https://yourhealth.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk/ and search for 'Treatment for your RCES eye condition (recurrent corneal erosion syndrome)' or leaflet 469 for more information.

It can be used to help with other corneal conditions. These will have been discussed with you in clinic.



What does the surgery involve?

We do this under local anaesthetic while you are awake. We numb the eye with drops. The eyelids are held open for you.

During the procedure we apply alcohol to the surface of the cornea for 30 seconds. We put alcohol on the outer layer of the cornea (epithelium layer) to soften it. This lets the surgeon take off the epithelium. The layer is then scraped off. A bandage contact lens is then put on to help the eye feel more comfortable and help the surface to heal. This will be taken off in clinic within 1 to 2 weeks after the procedure.

What are the benefits of the surgery?

Taking off the surface epithelium aims to improve your corneal condition. The surgeon will talk about this with you.

By taking off the layer it allows the epithelial layer to grow back normally. This procedure has been found to be successful for around 8 out of 10 people (80%). This does depend on the reason for the procedure.

What are the risks of the procedure?

The risks are very low after this procedure. The eye drops we give you need to be taken as advised to help the eye heal. The possible risks are:

- **Infection**: if your eye becomes unusually red, painful with a drop in vision it may be a sign of infection.
- **Allergy to drops**: you may have redness, itching, swelling of eyelid or a watery eye.

Please contact Eye Casualty right away.

Aftercare

This procedure can cause some discomfort for 2 to 3 days after surgery. This is while the epithelial layer grows back. This often takes 2 to 3 days, then the pain will settle.

- You may find bright light painful for 2 to 3 days as well. This should settle after a few days.
- You may find you have watery eyes. Do not rub the eye. Close the eye and dab the tears.

- You will be told how to take your eye drops.
- You need to use the eye drops as prescribed.
- Do not stop the drops until the clinic doctor tells you to.
- Do not get any water into your eye until you have been advised it is safe after the surface of the eye has healed. Tap water can cause serious eye infection.
- The eye may look redder for a few days after surgery but will slowly improve with time.
- The bandage contact lens may fall out. Do not put the lens back in. It will not affect the eye healing. It is used to make the eye more comfortable.
- Continue glaucoma drops, unless we have told you to stop them.
- You will get an appointment in the post. The surgeon will decide on long term follow up if needed.

What to do if you think there is a problem

If you have any concerns after your procedure you can contact the Specialist Nurse Team on **07970 940125**

Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm

We cannot always answer the phone or listen to messages.

If urgent please go to Eye Casualty:

Monday to Friday: 8.30am to 4.30pm

Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays: 8.30am to 12.30pm

Or go to the **Emergency Department** outside these hours.

Health information and support is available at www.nhs.uk or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice
Visit www.uhleicester.nhs.uk for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals.
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact uhl-tr.informationforpatientsmailbox@nhs.net

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہِ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔
ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।
إذا كنت ترغب في الحصول على هذه المعلومات بلغةٍ أُخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل
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If you would like this information in another language or format such as EasyRead or Braille, please telephone 0116 250 2959 or email uhl-tr.equalitymailbox@nhs.net

We are a research hospital and you may be asked to take part in research

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