

CORNEAL INJURIES

The **cornea** is the outer clear layers of the eye providing a window through which light may pass. It is composed of many thin layers just like a stack of notebook paper. The healthy cornea is **normally very** resistant to infection.

If an injury occurs which damages the cornea, it may allow bacteria to penetrate causing an infection in the deeper layers of the eye.

A **CORNEAL ULCER** is an erosion through one or more layers of the cornea, starting from the outside and going inside the eye. Rapid deterioration of the cornea may result leading to very serious disease and blindness. The scientific name for this condition is “**Ulcerative Keratitis.**”

Corneal ulcers result in pain, eyelid spasms, sensitivity to bright light, and discharges from the eye. Blindness can result if not treated properly.

Sometimes the corneal wound **CANNOT** be seen with the naked eye. A special stain must be dropped in the eye to aid diagnosis. This is the **Primary** reason we do **NOT** like to dispense eye medications without first examining the eye--if the **WRONG** type medication is used, an eye infection may get **WORSE--possibly leading to blindness!**

For severe infections or injuries which penetrate deep into several layers of the cornea, surgery may be necessary to save the eye.