



Corneal abrasion

A corneal abrasion is a scratch on the clear window on the cornea (front of the eye). Abrasions are very painful because there are many nerves in this part of the eye. If your child has a corneal abrasion, their eye may be watery, red and sensitive to light. It may also be puffy and their vision may be blurry.

Treating an abrasion

The abrasion will heal itself over 24 to 48 hours but it can take up to one week, and occasionally a little longer for your child's eye to feel and look completely better.

To prevent any infection whilst your child's eye is healing, it is important to use antibiotic drops or ointment for several days (the eye doctor or nurse will prescribe this). Occasionally, in the case of large abrasions, other drops and an eye pad will also be needed. If your child is in pain, you can give them painkillers suitable for children, such as paracetamol or ibuprofen.

Will my child need further check-ups?

In most cases, your doctor will discharge your child straight from A&E

and there will be no need to return for a check-up.

What to look out for:

- pain, redness and swelling getting a lot worse in the days after your child's injury.
- yellow or green discharge coming out of your child's eye.
- your child's vision becoming worse over time.

If you are still worried about your child's symptoms, please call the advice line below or alternatively, attend A&E for a further review.

A&E for children is located in the Richard Desmond Children's Eye Centre

Opening hours: 9am - 4pm, Monday to Friday. Outside of these hours, please attend the adult A&E department at Moorfields City Road (around the corner).

Author: Paediatric information group

Revision number: 2

Approval date: September 2018

Review date: September 2021



**Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS
Foundation Trust**
City Road, London EC1V 2PD
Phone: 020 7253 3411
www.moorfields.nhs.uk

Moorfields Direct telephone helpline

Phone: 020 7566 2345
Monday-Friday, 8.30am-9pm
Saturday, 9am-5pm
Information and advice on eye
conditions and treatments from
experienced ophthalmic-trained nurses.

**Patient advice and liaison service
(PALS)**

Phone: 020 7566 2324/ 020 7566 2325
Email: moorfields.pals@nhs.net
Moorfields' PALS team provides
confidential advice and support to help
you with any concerns you may have
about the care we provide, guiding you
through the different services available
at Moorfields. The PALS team can also
advise you on how to make a complaint.

**Your right to treatment within 18
weeks**

Under the NHS constitution, all patients
have the right to begin consultant-led
treatment within 18 weeks of being
referred by their GP. Moorfields is
committed to fulfilling this right, but if
you feel that we have failed to do so,
please contact our patient advice and
liaison service (PALS) who will be able
to advise you further (see above). For
more information about your rights
under the NHS constitution, visit
www.nhs.uk/choiceinthenhs

