

Patient information-corneal and external disease

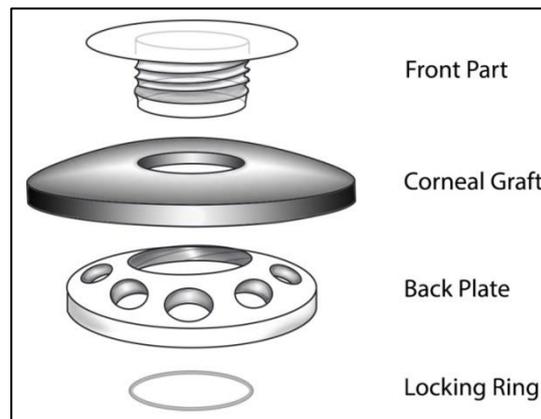
# Boston Keratoprosthesis (KPro)

This leaflet is designed for patients, as well as their relatives, friends and carers, to help explain the Boston Keratoprosthesis (KPro) procedure.

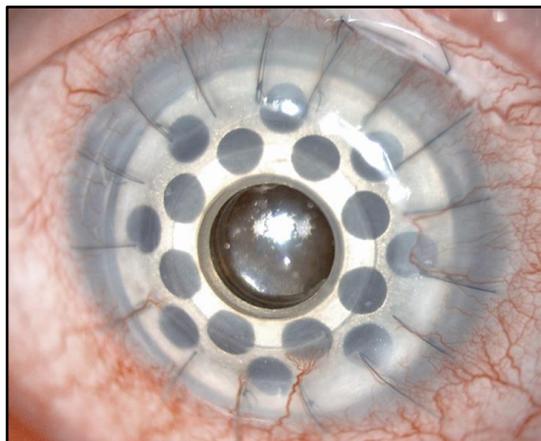
transplants are not suitable. Figure 1 below shows a diagram demonstrating the assembly of the KPro. Figure 2 is a photograph taken of the KPro in a patient from Moorfields.

## Introduction

The cornea is the window at the front of the eye and its clarity is essential for good eyesight. Diseases of the cornea can lead to it becoming scarred and opaque causing significantly reduced vision. A common treatment for this is to replace part or all of the cornea with a corneal transplant using corneal tissue from human donors. With some conditions, corneal transplantation is unlikely to improve vision in the long term. In these circumstances an artificial cornea (Boston keratoprosthesis) offers a greater chance of sustained vision improvement and improved quality of life.



**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**

## What is a Boston Keratoprosthesis?

Boston keratoprosthesis (KPro) is an artificial cornea made of acrylic plastic. The KPro is placed in the middle of a human donor cornea which is then secured to the eye with very fine stitches in a process similar to a typical full thickness corneal transplant.

The KPro with its clear central window can restore vision when typical corneal







## Health and Care Excellence (NICE)

website: [www.nice.org.uk/](http://www.nice.org.uk/)

This can be located by following this pathway online:

NICE guidance > Conditions and diseases > Eye conditions > Published guidance on this topic.

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## Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

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Phone: 020 7253 3411

[www.moorfields.nhs.uk](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.nhs.uk/choiceinthenhs)

