

Keratoconus



Normal vision



Keratoconus simulation

What is Keratoconus?

Keratoconus is an eye condition that causes the clear front surface of the eye (the cornea) to thin and bulge, and in some cases scar.

The bulging cornea affects the way light hits the retina at the back of the eye, causing distorted vision. If the cornea is scarred, this can also inhibit light entering the eye.

What are the common symptoms?

Symptoms begin slowly and can be hard to detect.

They include:

- Distorted, ghosting or blurred vision
- Glare and light sensitivity.

Who is at risk?

Research suggests that Keratoconus is a degenerative bilateral eye condition which commonly occurs during adolescence and young adulthood and may run in families.

Excessive rubbing of the eyes is also a risk factor for Keratoconus. It can be common for keratoconus to be more advanced in one eye.

How is Keratoconus managed?

There are a number of ways to manage Keratoconus. In the early stages, vision is correctable with glasses but with progression, the cornea becomes highly irregular and hard contact lenses are required for adequate vision correction. Once contacts become intolerable, 'corneal rings' can be implanted to improve vision.

Collagen 'crosslinking' is another way which helps to 'harden' the cornea to stop the progression of Keratoconus. Collagen crosslinking combines the use of ultra violet light and Vitamin B.

Corneal grafts (transplants) may be required for the most advanced cases of Keratoconus. Please speak to your ophthalmologist regarding management.

How can Vision Australia help?

Vision Australia provides support and services to people of all ages and stages of life who are blind or have vision loss.

We work with people to achieve what's important to them such as studying, finding or retaining employment, leading an active social life or continuing to do the things they love.

With the support of our professional teams, people who are blind or have low vision can develop their skills and make use of technology and equipment that will enable them to live independently.

Contact Vision Australia

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