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## **CORNEAL ABRASIONS**

The cornea is a thin clean layer of tissue covering the pupil and the iris (the colored part of the eye). A corneal abrasion is a scratch to the cornea that happens when a foreign object hits the eye or is trapped under the eyelid and then the eye is rubbed.

If your child has a corneal abrasion, he may complain of one or more symptoms:

- |                         |                               |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Eye pain                | Excessive tears               |
| Eye redness             | A sensation of a foreign body |
| Refusal to open the eye |                               |

### **What is the treatment for a corneal abrasion?**

- The eye may need to be irrigated (washed out) if there is concern that a foreign body or particle, such as sand or dirt, is trapped.
- An abrasion is usually easily identified after your doctor puts some eye drops in the eye and examines it with a special light.
- Antibiotic eye drops or ointment may be placed in the eye, and a prescription given for you to apply this at home.
- Usually, the eye is not patched unless there is concern that your child may frequently try to rub the eye.
- A majority of abrasions heal fully within 1-2 days. Your doctor may have you return to re-examine the eye, or if the scratch is still present in a couple days, may have you follow up with an eye specialist.

### **Call our office if:**

- Your child seems to be having worsening pain
- Pus is draining from your child's eye
- Your child complains of worsening blurry vision
- There is significant swelling around your child's eye / eyelids.
- Your child's symptoms return after you have completed treatment.

**For any urgent or emergent medical concerns, please call 911 or go immediately to the nearest emergency department.**

