

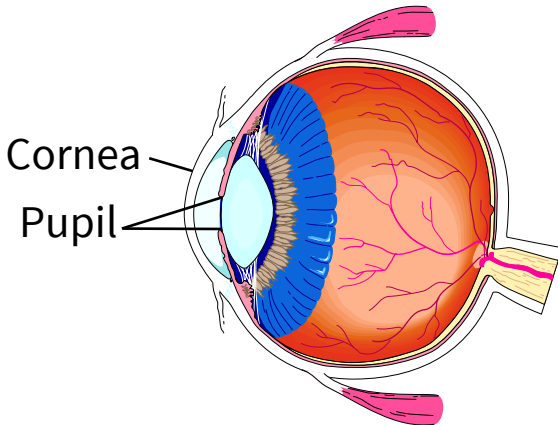
# Corneal Ulcer

Register using a self check-in kiosk in the main entrance of the Centennial or Dickson Buildings, Victoria General site. Next, go to the Eye Care Centre in the Centennial Building, 2A.

# Corneal Ulcer

## What is a corneal ulcer?

- A corneal ulcer is an open sore on your cornea (the clear, front part of your eye).
- Corneal ulcers are usually caused by an infection. They can also be caused by dry eye or other eye diseases.
- Corneal ulcers are diagnosed with an eye exam. Your ophthalmologist (eye doctor) may take swabs from your eye. This will help them decide which medication will work best if you have an infection.



## How is a corneal ulcer treated?

### Eye drops and ointments

- Corneal ulcers are treated with prescription eye drops and ointments.

- At first, you may need to take eye drops every hour.
- Different eye drops can help:
  - › lubricate (make it wet) your eye.
  - › lower inflammation (swelling) in your eye.
  - › control the pressure in your eye as your eye heals.

## Pain

- Corneal ulcers can cause pain and discomfort.
- The pain should get better when you start taking eye drops.
- You can take acetaminophen (Tylenol®) for pain, as needed. **Do not** take ASA (Aspirin®) or ibuprofen (Advil®).

## Follow-up

- Your eye must be checked often.

It is very important to:

- › go to all of your follow-up appointments.
- › take all eye drops and medications prescribed by your eye doctor.

- **Do not** wear contact lenses until your eye doctor says it is safe.

**If you do not follow your treatment and miss your follow-up appointments, you may have more vision loss, or go blind.**

**Contact your eye doctor right away if you have:**

- › a major or sudden change in your vision.
- › more pain.

**If you cannot reach your eye doctor, call Locating at 902-473-2222 and ask to have the ophthalmology resident on call paged, or go to the nearest Emergency Department right away.**

**Looking for more health information?**

Find this pamphlet and all our patient resources here: <https://library.nshealth.ca/PatientEducation>

Contact your local public library for books, videos, magazines, and other resources.

For more information, go to <http://library.novascotia.ca>

Connect with a registered nurse in Nova Scotia any time: call 811 or visit <https://811.novascotia.ca>

Learn about other programs and services in your community: call 211 or visit <http://ns.211.ca>

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The information in this pamphlet is to be updated every 3 years or as needed.