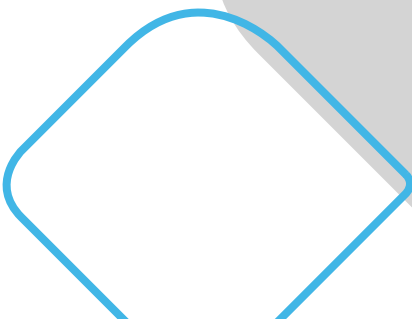
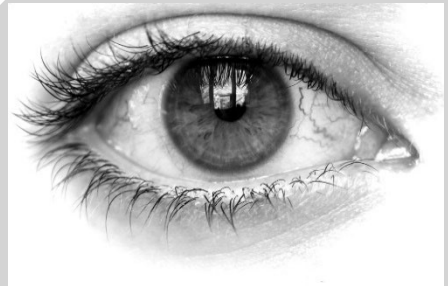


Eye Unit

Corneal Graft



What is a corneal graft?

A corneal graft or transplant is an operation in which part, or all, of your cornea is removed and replaced with healthy corneal tissue from a donated cornea.

What happens in preparation for the operation?

The operation is carried out under a general anaesthetic as a day case.

You will have a pre-operative assessment before the operation to take your medical history, medications etc and have checks done i.e. ECG and bloods taken. Any questions you have will be answered at this assessment.

What happens afterwards?

You will have a clear eye shield put over the eye following surgery. This will stay on overnight and you will be given an appointment in Eye Outpatients B29 to see the doctor for a check-up. There will be eye drops given to you to take home with instructions.

What are the risks of having a corneal graft?

Rare but awareness is needed

- A cataract forming
- Bleeding inside the eye
- Raised pressure in the eye
- Possible leak of fluid between the stitches
- Graft rejection (the drops given are to reduce this possibility)
- Infection (the drops given are to reduce this possibility)
- Inflammation (the drops given are to reduce this possibility)
- Dry eye (lubricating drops can be used to help this)



What restrictions are there following surgery?

Do not rub or touch your eye

Avoid contact sports and swimming.

Avoid driving until the doctor tells you otherwise.

Do not undertake strenuous exercise.

If the eye becomes red and painful, please contact the eye unit.

You will need time off work (if applicable)

How will my eye feel after the operation?

After the operation, your sight may be blurred. Some people notice an improvement early on whereas others may take more time to improve. This is to be expected after an operation.

Your eye will need time to heal and settle down following surgery.

IMPORTANT

If you have any unexpected eye or general health problems in the week before your operation, (e.g. sticky eye) please **inform us immediately**. **Do not wait until the day of your operation** to tell us about a problem, because it may have to be cancelled due to the problem.

If you give us sufficient notice of a problem or a likely cancellation, it may be possible to save the precious donor material for use on someone else.

If you have any discharge, light sensitivity, persistent pain and/or redness, contact the eye department on the following numbers immediately:

Ophthalmology Department

1st Floor Central B28 & B29
Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Foundation Trust
Combe Park
Bath
BA1 3NG

If you have any further questions please call:

**Monday – Friday 9am -5pm
Eye Clinic (01225) 826989**

If you have an emergency on evenings, bank holidays and weekends:

Call the RUH switchboard (01225) 428331 and ask for the on call eye doctor.

Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust
Combe Park, Bath, BA1 3NG

01225 428331 | www.ruh.nhs.uk

If you would like this leaflet in email form, large print, braille or another language, please contact the Patient Support and Complaints team on 01225 825656.

Date of publication: February 2025 | Ref: OPT/028
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The RUH, where you matter