

Revised Corneal Transplant

Patient Information



What is a cornea?

The cornea is the smooth and transparent part in the front of the eye. It is responsible for allowing light to enter the eye and plays an important role in focusing this light onto the retina, the part of the eye that senses light. These two functions are essential for normal vision.

What is a Corneal Transplant?

A corneal transplant is the process of replacing diseased cornea, with healthy, donated cornea. This can help restore vision.

How does the cornea get damaged?

The following are some factors that may damage the cornea:

- Injury to the eye leading to corneal damage
- Medical conditions such as corneal ulcers/infection leading to a corneal scar
- Cornea that has become thin and weak
- Bulging of the cornea due to ocular pressure changes
- Severe allergies causing corneal damage.

How do I prepare for the Corneal Transplant procedure?

- Do not eat anything for 6-8 hours prior to the procedure.
- Please tell your doctor, if you are taking any blood thinning medications, as these may need to be stopped. Please also share if you are on any other medication.
- Please schedule and undertake a pre-operative visit for an anaesthesia workup prior to the surgery.
- A surgical day care representative will confirm the admission time one day before the procedure and reinforce preoperative instructions. Feel ask questions if any clarification is required.

On the day of admission, please do the following:

- Leave all valuables, including your jewellery, at home.
- Bring your hospital MR (white) card that has your medical record number with you.
- Make sure you are accompanied by an attendant.
- Bring all your test reports.
- Register at the counter when you arrive at the Day Care Surgical Unit located at Jennabai Hussain Ali Sharif Building, at the Aga Khan University Hospital, Karachi, Stadium Road Campus.

What happens after the procedure?

- The operated eye is padded and covered.
- You will be transferred to the recovery room and from there to the surgical daycare suite, where you will be monitored for around 2-4 hours. Some patients require more time and may have to remain in recovery for longer.
- After complete recovery, you will be discharged.
- You will be given a follow-up appointment for the next day at the eye clinic
- Your eye pad will be removed in the clinic on the first post-operative day and the eye doctor will assess the graft status.
- Your doctor will prescribe you some eye-drop medication. Please ensure that you administer your drops and other medications, as per the instructions of your doctor.

- You will be required to follow up with your doctor on a regular basis for at least a year.

How do I take care of my eyes at home?

- Do not rub or touch the eye.
- Avoid being in smoky and dusty areas as this can cause irritation.
- Wear sunglasses to prevent light sensitivity during daylight.
- Avoid contact sports and swimming as recommended by your doctor.
- Take adequate rest for one week after your surgery.
- Do not perform any tasks that require heavy lifting and bending.
- Refrain from driving until your eye doctor allows you to start driving again.

Important Instructions

Call your doctor right away if you experience any of the following in the operated eye:

- Increased pain
- Redness
- Sensitivity to light
- Worsened vision