

What Is Corneal Laceration?

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The [cornea is the clear front window of the eye](#). A corneal laceration is a cut on the cornea. It is usually caused by something sharp flying into the eye. It can also be caused by something striking the eye with significant force, like a metallic hand tool. A corneal laceration is deeper than a [corneal abrasion](#), cutting partially or fully through the cornea. If the corneal laceration is deep enough it can cause a full thickness laceration. This is when the laceration cuts completely through the cornea and causes a ruptured globe, a tear into the eyeball itself. A corneal laceration is a very serious injury and requires immediate medical attention to avoid severe vision loss.

If your [eye has been injured](#), you should do the following:

- gently place a shield over the eye to protect it. Cut away the bottom part of a paper cup and tape this piece to the area around the eye. Wear this to protect your eye until you get medical help.
- do not rinse with water
- do not remove the object stuck in eye
- do not rub or apply pressure to eye
- avoid giving aspirin, ibuprofen or other non-steroidal, anti-inflammatory drugs. These drugs thin the blood and may increase bleeding
- after you have finished protecting the eye, see a physician immediately

Corneal Laceration Symptoms

Corneal laceration symptoms may include:

- severe pain
- tearing
- sensitivity to light
- blurred or decreased vision
- bleeding (blood in the eye)
- the feeling that there is something in the eye

What Causes Corneal Laceration?

Any activity in which objects can fly into the eye at high speed can cause a corneal laceration. The most common causes of a corneal laceration are such activities as:

- cutting wood
- grinding metal
- trimming grass
- carving stone

Contact with dust, dirt, sand, or even an edge of a piece of paper can possibly cut the cornea if enough force is involved.

Most corneal lacerations can be prevented by using protective eye wear during [high-risk activities](#).

Corneal Laceration Diagnosis

If you have any [corneal laceration symptoms](#), you should see an ophthalmologist immediately. He or she will perform a complete eye examination to determine the extent of the injury. Your ophthalmologist will seek to learn whether the cut is a partial thickness or full thickness laceration.

To examine your corneal laceration, your ophthalmologist may put [numbing drops in your eye](#) so that it can stay open for the exam. He or she may also perform a fluorescein eye stain. This is a test that uses orange dye (fluorescein) and a blue light to detect damage to the cornea.

Corneal Laceration Treatment

Surgery is usually done to close the cut into the eye and to help prevent infection. Surgery helps:

- prevent further damage to the eye
- remove any foreign object remaining in the eye after the injury

Severe lacerations may need several surgeries for repair and can result in permanent vision loss.

Following surgery, your eye may be patched to protect it. Also, your ophthalmologist may give you medications. These can include medication for pain and to help you to heal.

[If you have a corneal laceration](#), you may be at risk for complications, including [retinal detachment](#), infection and [glaucoma](#). It is important that you follow up with your ophthalmologist for care after your immediate treatment.

Sources:

<https://www.aao.org/eye-health/diseases/what-is-corneal-laceration>

<https://www.aao.org/eye-health/diseases/corneal-laceration-symptoms>

<https://www.aao.org/eye-health/diseases/corneal-laceration-cause>

<https://www.aao.org/eye-health/diseases/corneal-laceration-treatment>