

Corneal Foreign Bodies

Corneal foreign bodies could damage your sight

The cornea is the window of the eye which lets in the light so it needs to be clear and healthy.

Embedded foreign bodies should be removed as soon as possible by your doctor or at the Eye Emergency Department as they can very quickly cause the eye to become inflamed, especially if they are pieces of metal or rust.

Removal of the foreign body leaves a small wound on the cornea which usually heals in 24-48 hours. The length of time depends on how deeply it is embedded, the type of material and how long it has been in the eye.

Deeply embedded foreign bodies may cause permanent scarring which, if central, will cause blurred vision.

Eye protection

It is very important, if there is any risk of particles going into the eyes, that good eye protection is worn at all times.

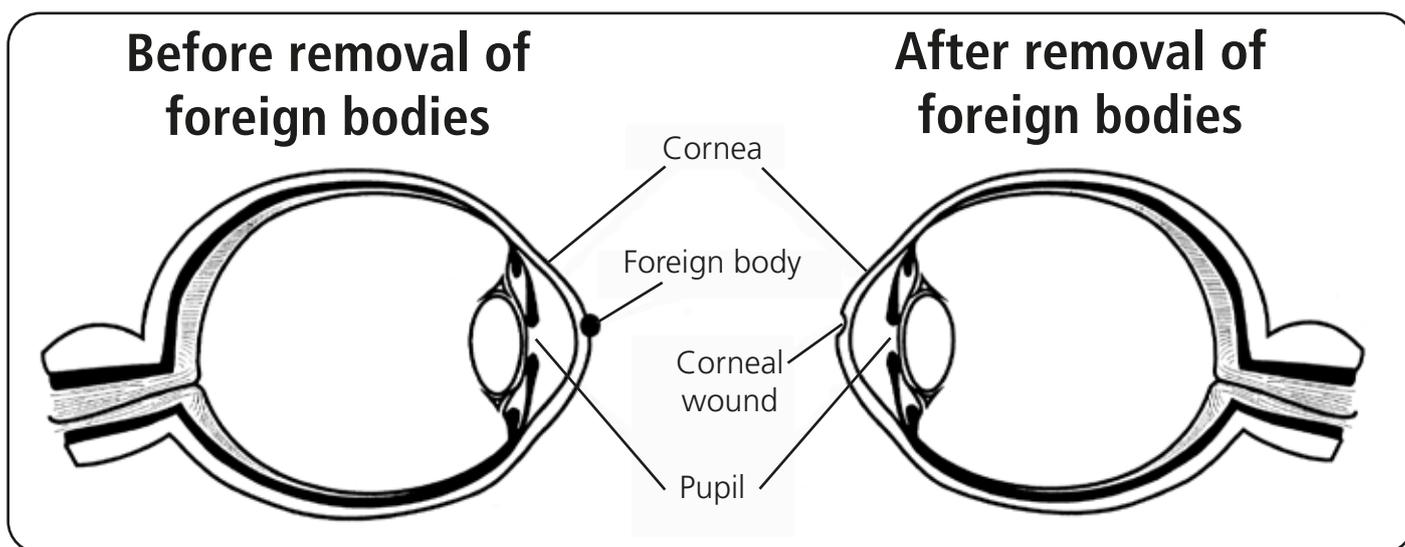
If the eye protection you are given at work is not satisfactory, speak to your employer or safety officer about it.

The more times you have an embedded corneal foreign body, the more you risk damage to your sight.

Foreign bodies can go through the cornea to the inside of the eye where they can cause serious damage and permanent loss of eye sight. This kind of accident can happen, for example, when using a hammer and chisel.

Help to protect others by letting them know the risk they take when not wearing eye protection at the right time.

Please contact the telephone triage team to arrange a review on **01392 402399**. This service is available from Monday - Thursday 9am - 12.30pm, 2pm-4.30pm and Friday 9am - 12.30pm.



The Trust cannot accept any responsibility for the accuracy of the information given if the leaflet is not used by RD&E staff undertaking procedures at the RD&E hospitals.

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