



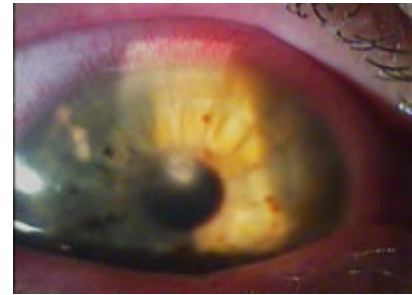
Microbial keratitis


Corneal Infection

Corneal infection is a bacterial infection of the front surface of the eye (the cornea). It is also known as Microbial Keratitis, or MK.

Corneal infection associated with contact lenses occurs when the lens is contaminated by micro-organisms (usually bacteria, but can also be fungi or amoebas), and when these micro-organisms then attack the cornea.

Corneal infection is the most serious possible complication associated with contact lenses, as it can cause vision loss. However corneal infection is very rare, affecting around 5 in 10,000 contact lens wearers each year.




You can significantly reduce your risk of infection by following good lens care and hygiene practices. 

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

Corneal infection is associated with **pain**, which usually develops rapidly, and **severe redness**.

Other symptoms can include


- Tearing or discharge
- Sensitivity to light
- Puffiness of the lids
- Decreased visual acuity. 



WHAT DO YOU DO?

If you have any discomfort remove your lenses. If you continue to experience pain and redness go to an eyecare practitioner **as soon as possible**.

Your eye needs to be examined with a microscope to make an accurate diagnosis.

Urgent expert medical attention and treatment is paramount in preventing permanent damage to your vision. 

SEE AN EYECARE PRACTITIONER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

If you experience any pain and redness you should visit your eyecare practitioner immediately.

If an infection is left untreated it can quickly become severe, leading to permanent damage to the infected eye. Infection associated with virulent organisms can cause severe destruction of the cornea within 24 hours. 