Cornea - Dystrophies

The Following Information has been Prepared for You:

Cogan's Epithelial Corneal Dystrophy (aka Map, Dot, Fingerprint Dystrophy & Anterior Basement Membrane Dystrophy) is a fairly common condition that usually occurs in patients over 40 years old, and affects both eyes. It is genetic. There is no cure. It causes the microscopic appearance of faint lines on the front of the cornea, detectable by your doctor during your eye exam. It may cause very faint visual disturbance, but does not progress beyond that. Typically, the treatment involves the use of moisture drops, as needed. Occasionally hyperosmotic eyedrops or ointments will be used when vision is noticeably impacted or if there are other corneal conditions present.

Fuch's Corneal Dystrophy is a fairly common condition that usually occurs in patients over 40 years old, and affects both eyes. It is genetic. There is no cure. It causes the microscopic appearance of irregularly-shaped cells and deposits on the back surface of the cornea, called the endothelium. The endothelial cells regulate the fluid within the cornea. When the endothelial cells become dysfunctional, the cornea can swell. This causes blurred vision and glare. It also causes a higher risk of erosions on the front surface of the cornea. The swelling tends to be worse within the first 15 to 30 minutes after sleep. In most cases, the condition is mild and requires no treatment. However, some cases may require treatment with moisture drops and / or hyperosmotic eyedrops or ointments. Very rarely, the cornea could develop painful fluid cysts and scarring. If you regularly have blurred vision after waking, you may try standing in front of a fan or hairdryer set on low / cool (with your eyes open) for a few minutes. This will encourage quicker evaporation of the corneal fluid. Prescription eyedrops to decrease eye pressure may also be helpful. If you have intense pain on the front of the eye, especially after waking up, you may have developed a corneal erosion. Corneal erosions will require prompt, in-office treatment.

Stromal Dystrophies are rare. They may be classified as follows: Lattice, Granular, Macular, Crystalline. These are genetic and without a cure. They may be detectible in childhood. Visual disturbance is common, but may vary in intensity. For these conditions, corneal transplant surgery may be recommended if vision impairment is significant. Crystalline Dystrophy may also be associated with high blood cholesterol or triglycerides, which will require testing and management with your primary care physician.

The above list is not all-inclusive. There are some rarer corneal dystrophies that may require management by a corneal specialist.

For any of the corneal dystrophies, your doctor needs to evaluate your vision and ocular health on a regular basis. Measurements of the corneal thickness (pachymetry) may be taken to monitor for progression.

Please Rate the Information You Received

	☐ Very helpful - all questions are answered ☐ Somewhat helpful - I still have questions ☐ Not helpful – none of my questions were answered
Comments / Questions / Typos:	

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