

Patient Information

Penetrating Keratoplasty (PKP)

Eye Unit



What is PKP?

Penetrating Keratoplasty, also known as “**Full Thickness Corneal Transplant**”, is a surgical procedure where a damaged or disease cornea is removed and replaced with a healthy donor cornea. The donor will be a person who has (or whose family has) given permission for their corneas to be used for medical purposes after their death.

Why is it Done?

PKP maybe recommended for patients with:

1. Keratoconus (advanced stage).
2. Corneal scarring from infection, trauma or previous surgery.
3. Corneal oedema or Fuch’s endothelial dystrophy.
4. Corneal degenerations or dystrophy.
5. Failed previous corneal graft.

The Procedure:

- Surgery is performed under general anaesthesia.
- The central portion of your cornea is removed.
- A donor cornea is placed and stitched with very fine sutures.
- The procedure typically takes 60-90 minutes.
- It is usually a day case surgery, but some patients may stay overnight.

What to expect after surgery:

- Vision may be blurry at first and will improve gradually over months.
- You will need to use antibiotic and steroid eyedrops for several months.
- Stitches(sutures) may stay in place for many months to a year or more.
- Regular follow up visits are essential to monitor healing and detect complications early.

Risks & Complications:

As with any surgery, there are risks.

Possible complications include:

- Graft rejection (redness, pain, decreased vision).
- Infection.
- Increased intra-ocular pressure (glaucoma).
- Astigmatism
- Suture related problems.
- Graft failure.

Prompt reporting of any symptoms like redness, sudden vision loss or pain is crucial.

- ✓ Use eyedrops exactly as prescribed.
- ✓ Avoid rubbing your eye or pressing on it.
- ✓ Wear a protective shield especially at night for at least 1-2 weeks.
- ✓ Avoid dusty environments, swimming and heavy lifting.
- ✓ Avoid make up near the eye and do not wash face directly.
- ✓ Attend all follow up appointments as scheduled.

Recovery Timeline:

- Most patients can resume light activities within 1-2 weeks.
- Vision improves slowly over several months to a year.
- Spectacles or contact lenses maybe needed after healing.
- Suture removal maybe done gradually after 12 months or even later.

Contact the Emergency Eye Clinic (EEC) Team if you notice:

1. Increase redness, pain or light sensitivity.
2. Sudden drop in vision.
3. Discharge or swelling.
4. Floaters or flashing lights.

These could be signs of complications like graft rejection or infection which require immediate attention.

FAQS:

Q: Will I need another transplant in the future?

A: Some grafts last a lifetime, while others need to be repeated after several years.

Q: Will my vision be perfect after surgery?

A: Vision usually improves, but full correction may need glasses or contact lenses and, in some cases, additional procedures.

Contact us:

EEC Tel: 01633 - 238856 during working days/hours.

Weekend/Out of Hours: Ophthalmology on Call Team via switchboard:
01633- 234234

E-mail (only if needs advice): EmergencyEyeClinic.abb@wales.nhs.uk

Your Eyedrops Plan is as Follows:

The following drops should be applied to your operated eye only, starting the morning after surgery:

Eye drop	Time	Action
Dexamethasone PF (preservative free)	1 drop, 4 times per day till further advice.	Anti- inflammatory
Chloramphenicol/ levofloxacin PF (preservative free)	1 drop, 4 times a day for 4 weeks.	Antibiotic
Cyclopentolate 1% PF	1 drop, 3 times a day for 1 week	Dilating drops

Recording Chart for Chloramphenicol Eyedrops:

1 drop from each chloramphenicol vial, 4 times per day for **2** Or **4** weeks.

(please encircle)

Chloramphenicol	08.30 am	12.30 pm	04.30 pm	08.30 pm
Day 1				
Day 2				
Day 3				
Day 4				
Day 5				
Day 6				
Day 7				
Day 8				
Day 9				
Day 10				
Day 11				
Day 12				
Day 13				
Day 14				
Chloramphenicol	08.30 am	12.30 pm	04.30 pm	08.30 pm
Day 15				
Day 16				
Day 17				
Day 18				
Day 19				
Day 20				
Day 21				
Day 22				
Day 23				
Day 24				
Day 25				
Day 26				
Day 27				
Day 28				

Record Chart for Dexamethasone PF eye drops - for 1st month:

1 drop from each Dexamethasone vial, 4 times per day till further advice.

Day	8am	12 noon	4pm	8pm
Day 1				
Day 2				
Day 3				
Day 4				
Day 5				
Day 6				
Day 7				
Day 8				
Day 9				
Day 10				
Day 11				
Day 12				
Day 13				
Day 14				
Day 15				
Day 16				
Day 17				
Day 18				
Day 19				
Day 20				
Day 21				
Day 22				
Day 23				
Day 24				
Day 25				
Day 26				
Day 27				
Day 28				

We will tell you your eye drop regime for dexamethasone after the first review visit:
1 drop from each dexamethasone vial, every _ _ _ _ _ for _ _ _ _ _

**"This document is available in Welsh /
Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg".**