



**CENTER FOR SIGHT**  
YOUR CLEAR CHOICE

## **Cornea Care Frequently Ask Questions**

### **What is the Cornea?**

The cornea is a thin clear layer of tissue on the eye's outermost layer. It is the clear, dome-shaped surface that covers the front of the eye. It helps to shield the rest of the eye from germs, dust and other harmful matter.

### **What is the function of the Cornea?**

When light strikes the cornea, it bends--or refracts--the incoming light onto the lens. The lens further refocuses that light onto the retina, a layer of light sensing cells lining the back of the eye that starts the translation of light into vision. The cornea also serves as a filter, screening out some of the most damaging ultraviolet (UV) rays.

### **How might my cornea become damaged?**

Your cornea may become hazy or damaged because of disease or injury. Corneal infections caused by inadequately cleaned contact lenses can lead to permanent corneal damage if not treated promptly. Trauma to the eye can likewise permanently injure the cornea, as can certain progressive diseases, such as keratoconus.

### **What happens when the Cornea is damaged?**

When the cornea is damaged, its smoothness and clarity may be lost. Scars, swelling or irregular shape may cause the cornea to scatter or distort light, resulting in glare or blurred vision.

### **What is Corneal Dystrophy?**

Corneal dystrophies form a group of rare disorders which usually affect both eyes. They may be present at birth, but more frequently develop during adolescence and progress gradually throughout life.

### **What are the causes of Corneal Dystrophies?**

Usually corneal dystrophies tend to run in families and the causes of most corneal dystrophies will lie in individual genetic make-up.

### **What are the available treatment options?**

In some conditions corneal grafting offers a good prospect for visual improvement or cornea transplants.

### **When are cornea transplants needed?**

Cornea transplants may be required if functional vision cannot be returned by medications or special contact lenses. Conditions for cornea transplants include: Keratoconus, a steep curving of the cornea, cornea failure following other eye surgery, hereditary conditions, scarring after infections, injury or rejection after corneal transplant.

### **How is a corneal transplant performed?**

Dr. Lahners is the first eye surgeon on Florida's West Coast to perform the new "all-laser" cornea transplant surgery. Center for Sight is one of only five practices in the U.S. paving the way for this new technology, which is expected to become the gold standard for cornea transplants in the next few years.

The IntraLase® FS laser is making the procedure safer and more accurate, with fewer complications and faster recovery time.

### **Will my eye color change to the eye color of the donor?**

No. The cornea is a clear tissue that is in the front of the eye and the iris, which gives your eyes their color.

### **What will my post-operative care entail?**

A successful cornea transplant requires meticulous care and attention on the part of both patient and doctor. Patients must adhere to their medication schedule and avoid any injury to the eye.

### **Are cornea transplants covered by my medical insurance?**

Yes, it is covered by Medicare and virtually all commercial insurance plans.

### **How do I schedule an appointment?**

Go to [centerforsight.net](http://centerforsight.net) and click "schedule an appointment" or call 925-2020.