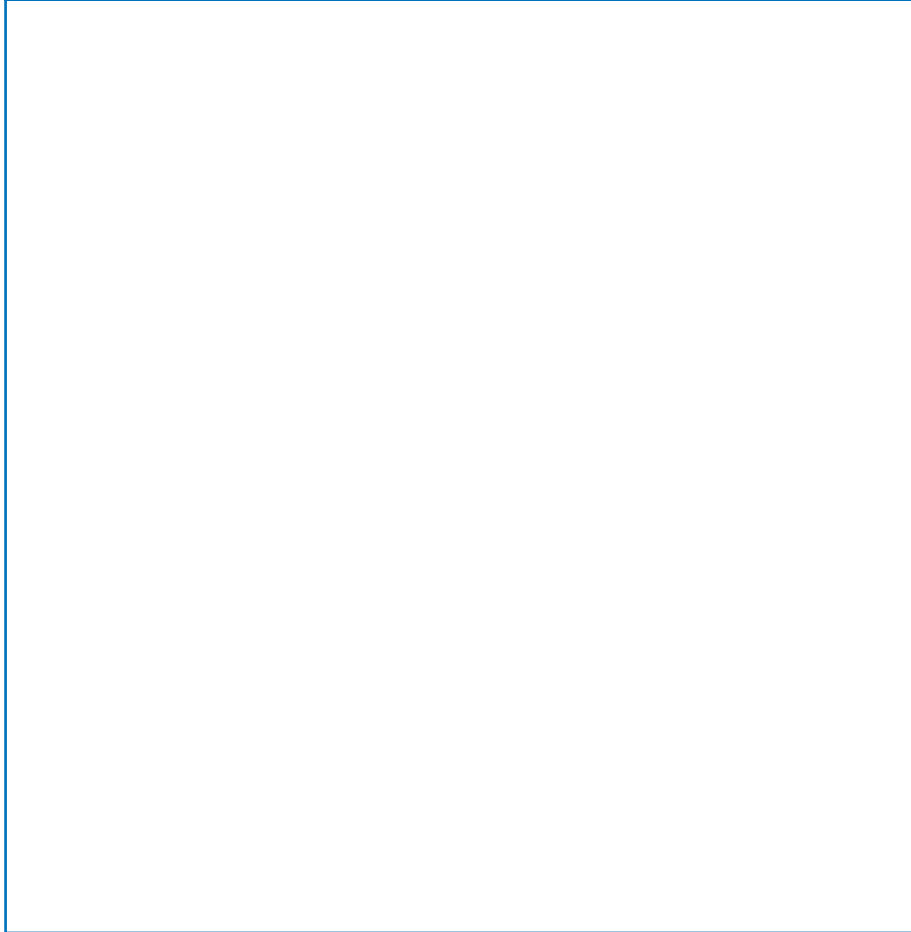


Additional information




You can contact the Eye Emergency department on **0300 019 4181** 8am-6pm, Monday-Saturday, and 8.30am-2pm on Sunday

The Eye Unit, The Royal Bournemouth Hospital,
Castle Lane East, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH7 7DW

Author: **Graham Giddens** Date: **November 2020** Version: **Four**
Review date: **November 2023** Ref: **042/21**

t: 01202 303626 w: www.uhd.nhs.uk



: @UHD_NHS : @UHTrust : @uhd_nhs

Conjunctival Laceration

The Eye Unit

This leaflet is for patients who have
conjunctival laceration

t: 01202 303626 w: www.uhd.nhs.uk

: @UHD_NHS : @UHTrust : @uhd_nhs

What is the Conjunctiva?

The conjunctiva is a tough, transparent membrane, which lines the inside of the eyelids and folds around to cover the sclera (white of the eye). It is only loosely attached to the underlying sclera of the eye.

What is a Conjunctival Laceration?

This is when the conjunctiva is injured by something hitting or poking the eye - for example, a fingernail or sharp twig - the conjunctiva may be torn or lacerated.

What are the symptoms?

There may be mild pain and / or a feeling of something in the eye. The white of the eye may look red around the affected area and the laceration may be visible to the naked eye. Sometimes blood collects between the conjunctiva and the sclera if any blood vessels are damaged (rather like a bruise).

Will it affect my vision?

The conjunctiva does not cover the cornea (front window of the eye), so the vision is not affected. The eye needs to be examined to ensure the laceration is not deeper than the conjunctiva; to make sure that the globe of the eye has not been punctured, and to make sure there is no foreign body in the eye. A drop of fluorescein (yellow dye) is used to show the extent of the injury.

How is a Conjunctival Laceration treated?

- Most will heal spontaneously. Occasionally if the laceration is very large or gaping, a few sutures (stitches) may be required.
- In order to prevent infection and to help the eye feel more comfortable, an antibiotic ointment is usually prescribed.
- You may be asked to attend for a follow up appointment, the nurse or doctor will decide on this after examining you.
- If the eye does not start to settle after a few days, or if any new symptoms develop, you should ring the 'Eye Emergency department' for further advice.
- You may be given a tetanus injection. If you are unsure of whether your tetanus immunisation is up to date, then you should check this with your GP.