

Additional Notes

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Marginal Ulcers and Marginal Keratitis

The Eye Unit

Telephone contact number:
Eye Unit Acute Referral Clinic
Helpline: **0300 019 4181**
between **8am** and **6pm**

The Eye Unit, The Royal Bournemouth Hospital,
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What is a marginal ulcer or keratitis?

This is a small area of inflammation or ulceration on the cornea (the clear surface of the eye).

What causes it?

This is a hypersensitive reaction to an infection, and the cornea becomes inflamed or ulcerated. It can be connected to a chronic infection of the eyelids known as Blepharitis or Meibomianitis.

What are the signs and symptoms?

- Discomfort and foreign body sensation in the eye
- Redness
- Watering
- Light sensitivity
- May have eyelid disease such as Blepharitis (please see our Blepharitis leaflet)

What is the treatment?

The usual treatment is an eye drop combining an antibiotic, and a steroid. The antibiotic gets rid of the infection and the steroid calms down the inflammation, It is also important to clean your eyelids if there is any sign of eyelid disease. (instructions from Blepharitis leaflet).

Can I get it again?

Yes, especially if it is related to eyelid disease, which is a long-term condition. The best way of trying to stop it coming back is to clean your eyelids as instructed.

What should I do if it comes back?

Ring the Acute Referral Clinic on **0300 019 4181** and speak to the triage nurse who will advise you or give you an appointment.

Remember...

- always wash your hands before and after touching your eye/s
- always finish the course of treatment if you have been prescribed medication, even if your symptoms have improved
- always have regular eye checks with your Optometrist
- always protect your eyes with goggles or glasses when carrying out DIY or using any power equipment
- if you splash anything into your eye always rinse with plenty of tap water and seek medical advice
- never use anyone else's medication (this includes eye-drops)