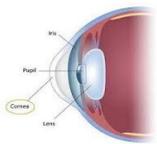


What is Fuch's Dystrophy?

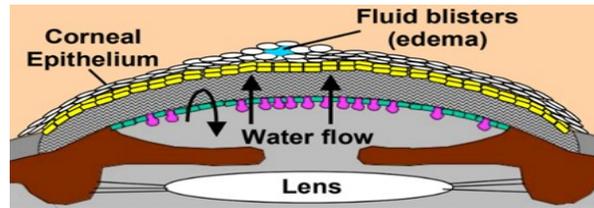


The **Cornea** is the transparent front part of the eye that covers the iris, pupil, and the other front components of the eye, known as the anterior chamber.

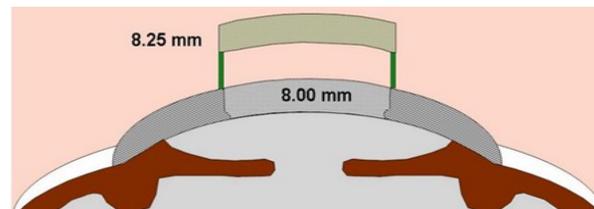
Fuchs' Corneal Dystrophy is a hereditary disease that affects the cornea. Cells on the back of the cornea die off and are replaced with small bumps. Because the cells on the back of the cornea normally pump fluid out of the cornea, loss of these cells cause the cornea to swell with fluid and become cloudy.

Symptoms:

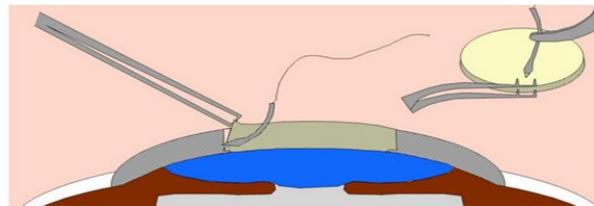
- 1) Coarse, rough feelings in the eye, occasionally accompanied by sharp pains.
- 2) Discomfort in bright light.
- 3) Fluctuating eyesight. Eyesight gets better and worse throughout the day or from day to day.
- 4) Halos around lights.
- 5) Glare (fuzziness) from bright lights



Fuch's Corneal Dystrophy affects the inner layer of the cornea, causing the cornea to swell. This reduces vision early on and causes pain in its later stages.



For the last one hundred years, full thickness transplants have been the standard treatment. This removes the defective cornea and replaces it with a full thickness disk of donor tissue (above and below).



Now a new transplant technique of Endothelial Keratoplasty (EK) restores sight in patients with Fuchs' dystrophy within a few weeks.

Treatment:

- 1) For visual blurring, removal of the excess moisture from the middle eye layer keeps the cornea thin and clear. This helps with use of a salt solution, such as MURO 128.
- 2) Ointment can be placed on the eye at bedtime to allow the salt to continue working while you sleep.
- 3) Steroid eye drops can also help reduce swelling in the cornea when there is a component of chronic inflammation.
- 4) Recent advances in laser cataract surgery can help remove the lens with less energy. Research by Drs. Pramanik and Pillar show this can help some Fuch's patients delay cornea transplant surgery.
- 5) If the cornea is permanently cloudy, a corneal transplant is required. See *Previous Page*.

Fuchs' Corneal Dystrophy and Cataracts:

- 1) cataract surgery alone may not be successful in treating Fuch's Dystrophy. The cornea may become cloudy following cataracts surgery.
- 2) Special tests, such as counting the number of cells on the back of the cornea and measuring cornea thickness, can be performed at the time of cataract surgery, and can help predict whether a corneal transplant will be necessary.

Keratoplasty:

A cornea transplant, also called keratoplasty, is a surgical procedure to replace part of your cornea with corneal tissue from a donor. Your cornea accounts for a large part of your eye's focusing power.

- 1) Both Endothelial Keratoplasty and full-corneal transplants require healthy, thoroughly screened donor tissue.
- 2) Both have a lifelong risk of rejection which can be reduced using steroid drops.
- 3) Antibiotic drops are typically used for the 1-2 weeks after surgery.

Endothelial Keratoplasty:

- 1) The EK employs an air bubble to hold the donor cornea in place.
- 2) The patient must lay face up for the better part of the 24-hour period following surgery.



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Fuch's Dystrophy

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