

## **CORNEAL ULCER**

The cornea is the curved clear membrane covering the front of the eye. It is like the window to the eye. It allows us to see images which are then transmitted to the back of the eye (retina). These signals are then sent to the brain, which interprets (processes) the signals and allows us to see. You have an ulcer in this window of the eye. Follow your caregiver's advice regarding cleaning and wearing of your contacts. Because the cornea has many fewer vessels and less blood supply than other organs, infections here which cause the ulcer are more difficult to treat.

### **HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS**

If antibiotics (medications which kill germs) or eye drops were prescribed, take as directed and for as long as directed. Sometimes these drops may be prescribed as often as every few minutes to every hour, for days. It may be necessary to set your alarm clock every few minutes to every hour during the night. This is absolutely necessary. Not following directions for this problem can be cause permanent eye injury, blindness, and chronic severe pain.

Keep appointments as directed. It is very important for directions to be followed and to use medications as directed, as an ulcer can perforate (make a hole) into the inner eye, and this could cause blindness.

**WARNING:** Do not drive or operate machinery and be careful using stairs until you have full use of your injured eye. Your ability to judge distances is impaired.

You may take acetaminophen (Tylenol®) or ibuprofen (Advil® or Motrin®) for pain and discomfort. If you were given stronger medications such as narcotics for pain, do not drive, ride a bicycle, operate machinery or participate in any activity where you could become injured. Do not drink alcohol, take tranquilizers or other medications which could impair you while on this type of medication, unless instructed otherwise by your caregiver.

### **SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ATTENTION IF:**

- There is redness, swelling, or increasing discharge from the eye.
- There is increased pain in the eye which is not controlled with medications.
- An unexplained oral temperature above 98.6 F develops.
- There are marked (big) changes in the vision of the affected eye.