

## **WHAT IS A PINGUECULA?**

A pingueculum is a yellowish thickening of the conjunctiva (the outer coating on the white of the eye) near the edge of the cornea, usually on the nasal (nose) side. Unlike a pterygium, a pingueculum does not actually grow onto the cornea. It is benign (non-cancerous) thickening of normal tissue. Pingueculum usually appears in adult life but may grow with time. Dry, dusty environments and ultraviolet exposure are the causes for pingueculum.

## **HOW IS IT TREATED?**

Since a pingueculum does not grow onto the cornea or threaten sight, no treatment is necessary unless it becomes inflamed. On very rare occasions a pingueculum may be surgically removed for cosmetic reasons.