

Nodular Cornea Degeneration

This material will help you understand nodular cornea degeneration, also called **Salzmann's nodular degeneration**, its causes and how it may be treated.

What is nodular cornea degeneration?

The cornea is the clear window in the front of the eye (see picture on the right). Its dome shape helps to focus light into our eye.

Nodular cornea degeneration occurs when small creamy white bumps appear on the surface of the cornea. In mild cases, these bumps are small and do not usually cause any symptoms. If the bumps become

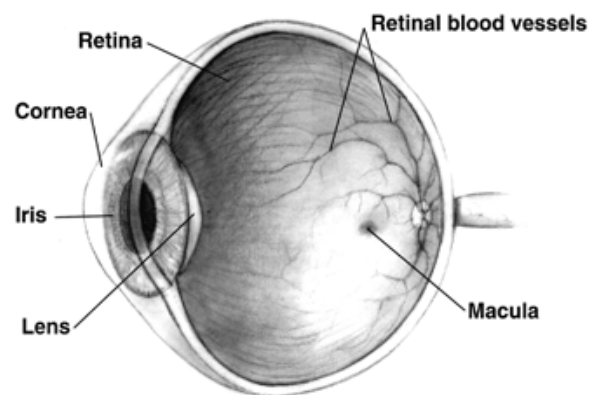


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larger or are closer to the center of the cornea, you may have some discomfort and/or decreased vision.

What causes nodular cornea degeneration?

The cause of these bumps on the cornea is unknown. Patients who have had eye trauma have a higher chance of developing nodular cornea degeneration. Conditions that cause eye inflammation such as keratitis (inflammation of the cornea) may also increase the chances of having this condition. Chronic inflammatory diseases, such as Crohn's disease, are also thought to be related. This disease seen more commonly in middle aged women.

How is nodular cornea degeneration treated?

Treatment for nodular cornea degeneration will depend on the nature of your case. If your case is mild, no treatment other than regular monitoring by your eye doctor may be needed. Ointments or topical steroid medications are sometimes used to ease discomfort. If you experience decreased vision, your doctor may recommend surgery to scrape the bumps off the surface of the cornea.

You and your doctor will discuss the treatment option that is best for you.

For more information, scan this code with your smartphone or visit the website listed.



<http://www.images.missionforvisionusa.org/anatomy/2007/02/salzmans-nodular-degeneration-of.html>

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Last Revised 03/2015