

# Intraocular Foreign Body Removal

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This material will help you understand the basics of intraocular foreign body removal and help you prepare for the procedure.

## **What is an intraocular foreign body removal?**

Intraocular foreign body (IOFB) removal is a medical procedure that removes material that has entered your eye. This can be caused by eye injury or accident. An IOFB may be any material such as metal, glass, stone, or even pencil lead. IOFBs increase the risk of eye infection. The chance of permanent vision loss is higher if the object is left in the eye. In general, it is best to remove the object as soon as it is safe for the eye.

## **What should I expect before the procedure?**

Before removing the IOFB, your eye doctor will give you a complete eye examination. During the exam, your doctor will ask how you were injured. This helps the doctor know the type of material in your eye. The doctor will look closely to see signs of where the material entered the eye. Your doctors may also have you do a CT or MRI scan to get a better idea of the location of the IOFB. If you think you may have been injured with metal, please alert your doctor as an MRI may not be the best test for you.

## **What should I expect during the procedure?**

The exact surgical procedure depends on the location of the object in the eye. During the procedure, your eye doctor makes an opening in the eye. S/he or she will use a variety of small instruments to remove the IOFB from your eye.

Your doctor may also remove a small sample of eye tissue. The tissue will be sent to a lab to look for signs of infection.

### **What should I expect after the procedure?**

After the procedure, your doctor may prescribe medicines including eye drops or pills. These help reduce the risk of developing an infection and may also help reduce inflammation in the eye.

### **Are there complications after having an intraocular foreign body removal?**

Complications from an IOFB removal vary depending on the size, location, and object involved in the injury. Even with successful removal of the IOFB, there is a significant risk of severe vision loss.

Possible complications from the IOFB removal include:

- Scarring
- Cataract
- Vision loss
- Infection
- Bleeding
- Retinal tear or detachment
- Optic nerve damage

The purpose of removing your IOFB is to maximize your chance of vision recovery.

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



<http://www.aao.org/publications/eyenet/200909/pearls.cfm?RenderForPrint=1&>

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