

Pterygium

What is a Pterygium?

Pterygium is a non-cancerous growth that starts in the clear, thin tissue called the conjunctiva; of the eye slowly passing through the cornea.



What causes a Pterygium?

The exact cause is unknown, but is associated to excessive exposure to wind, sunlight or sand. It is twice as likely to occur in men as in women, and can occur in infants. Symptoms include persistent redness from smoke, inflammation, foreign body sensation, tearing, dry and itchy eyes. Advanced pterygium can affect vision as it invades the cornea.

How is a Pterygium Treated?

The pterygium is safely and effectively removed. The tissue that covers the sclera known as the conjunctiva is extracted and then transplanted by auto-grafting with the use of a glue adhesive called Tisseel. Tisseel is safe and effective in reducing early postoperative complications and patient discomfort.

Day of Surgery: Please bring a driver. No need to stop Aspirin or blood thinners. You can eat and drink as per normal.

After Surgery: It is normal to expect red eye and pink discharge in tears up to 1-2 days. A contact lens will be placed on the eye during your surgery and left on for 5 days for healing and comfort. Blurry vision is normal while the contact is on the eye. The contact lens can be removed earlier to help improve vision but there might be some discomfort. Modify work duties due to blurry vision. No driving is recommended until contact lens is removed. A Prescription will be given for the appropriate antibiotic drops or ointment. Please call our office if you have any questions or concerns. If we are closed and you feel this is an emergency, please see your family physician, walk-in clinic or nearest emergency department.