Operation Information

Corneal Biopsy

Introduction
Corneal biopsy is a minor procedure of removing part of the superficial corneal tissue. The procedure can be an effective aid in establishing diagnoses in a variety of infections, dystrophic and degenerative conditions, corneal manifestations of systemic diseases, and drug-induced changes.

Although, in most of the times, infectious etiologic agents can be identified using corneal scraping, for some cases like suspected Acanthoemeba infection, corneal biopsy had to be considered.

Procedure
1. Injection of local anaesthesia or instillation of anaesthetic drops
2. Usually a sterile surgical blade or a trephine (a surgical instrument used to remove a very small bit of cornea) is used; a piece of corneal tissue with diameter of around 1 to 2 mm is removed.
3. The specimen may be sent for special staining or culture

Possible Risks and Complications
1. Bruises and swelling after local anaesthetic injection
2. Eye discomfort (including redness, pain and fear of bright light)
3. Corneal thinning or perforation
4. Corneal scar formation
5. Poor wound healing or recurrent corneal abrasion
6. Corneal swelling or oedema
7. Corneal and eyeball infection
8. Blurring of vision / loss of vision
9. Astigmatism
10. Allergy to eye drops
11. Transient blackout or fainting due to stress or vasovagal attack (usually recover after several minutes)
12. Eyeball perforation (uncommon)
13. Blindness (very rare and usually caused by the underlying disease)

** It is impossible to mention all the possible complications that may happen and the above is only a few important complications which may occur. Before agreeing for the operation, you must acknowledge and accept the fact that no matter how ideal the situation may be, these events may occur. Damage to peripheral organ, severe haemorrhage and leakage after operation, it may require another operation to deal with the complications.

Pre-operation Preparation
Your doctor will explain to you the reason, the procedure and the possible complications. Patient will need to sign the consent form.

Post-operation Instruction and Advice
1. Please contact your attending doctor or go back to hospital if you experience acute eye symptoms like severe eye pain or blurring of vision.
2. Follow up: Please attend the follow-up as arranged.
Should there be any enquiries or concerns, please consult the attending doctor. The attending doctor will be pleased to answer such enquiries and explain to you.

Under the professional care of the doctor, you will gradually recover. We wish you all the best during your treatment and recovery.

If you have any questions after reading the entire leaflet, please write them down in the spaces provided in order for the doctor to further follow-up.

Compiled by Union Hospital Consent Form Taskforce
The above information is for reference only; please enquire your physician for details
Our Hospital reserves the RIGHT to amend any information in this leaflet without prior notification