



Foreign bodies in the eye

When metal, wood or other foreign particles become lodged in the eye, they may cause an irritating scratch.

After removal of the foreign particle by an eye doctor, the eye needs a patch to allow the scratch to heal. Your eye may be patched for one or two days, and often an antibiotic ointment or cream is used to smooth the roughened, scratched area, and to fight infection.

Normally, the eye will settle down quite quickly once the particle is removed. Please note the following important information:

- You should not drive a car or undertake dangerous work while wearing an eye patch.
- Sometimes the eye ointment or drops may cause an irritation in the eye, especially after prolonged use. This is not dangerous and normally settles once the Eye Doctor authorises for the medication treatment to cease.
- Occasionally the scratched area fails to heal properly and can break down weeks, months or even years later. This is rare but troublesome. Seek medical advice immediately if this happens.
- Occasionally a scar forms where the eye was scratched, and this can interfere with vision. This is also rare, and usually only causes mild inconvenience, but medical advice should be sought.