

Understanding Keratoconus & the Importance of Early Diagnosis

Keratoconus (KC) is an underdiagnosed and progressive eye disease. Early diagnosis can be the best defense when it comes to KC and preserving your vision.



"When you realize life's this beautiful, you don't want to waste any time seeing it clearer."
– Stephen Curry, professional athlete living with KC

WHAT IS KC?

KERATOCONUS

[ker-uh-toh-koh-nuhs]

KC is a sight-threatening eye disease in which the normally round or dome-shaped cornea progressively thins causing a cone-like bulge to develop. This results in significant visual loss.¹



Eye Without KC



Eye with KC

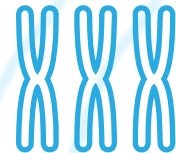
WHO'S AFFECTED BY KC?



KC affects young people in the prime of life. It is often first noticed in adolescence, with most of the damage to the cornea occurring between the ages of 10–30.²



US prevalence of KC is highest in adults aged 18–39 years, significantly higher prevalence in Black and Hispanic US populations.³

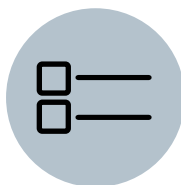


In addition, KC can affect up to 7 out of 10 people with Down syndrome.⁴

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS OF KC⁵



Excessive Eye Rubbing



Family History of KC



Difficulty Seeing at Night



Frequent Eyeglass Prescription Changes

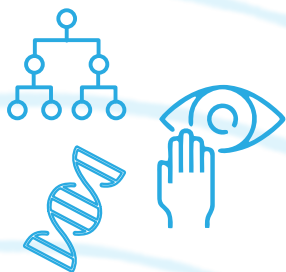


Frequent Headaches



Vision That Cannot Be Fully Corrected With Glasses or Contacts

RISK FACTORS FOR KC

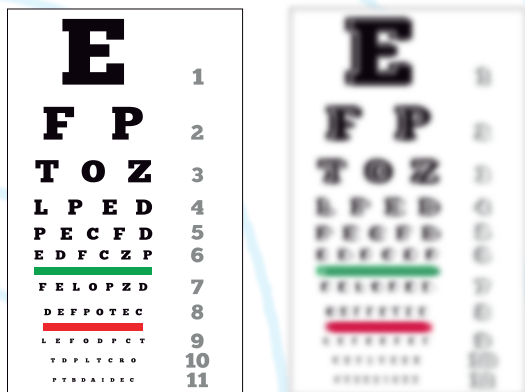


While the exact cause of KC is unknown, it is believed that genetics, the environment, such as allergens, eye rubbing, and hormonal changes all play a role.⁶

The simple reflexive act of rubbing your eyes can be both a cause and a symptom of KC.

People with a parent, sibling, or child who has KC are roughly 6–25 times more likely to have or develop keratoconus compared to someone with no family history of the disease.^{7, 8}

IMPORTANCE OF EARLY DETECTION

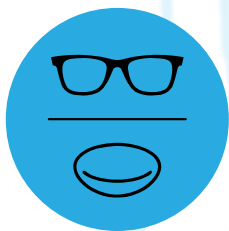


Example of KC Progression Over Time*

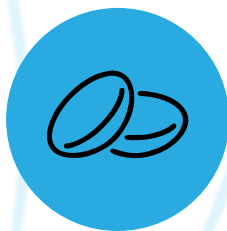
KC is a progressive disease which worsens over time, so early diagnosis is critical.

*Individual outcomes may vary. The depiction may not reflect the typical experience of a patient with KC and the timeline may vary. It is not intended to represent or guarantee that anyone will have the same or similar outcomes.

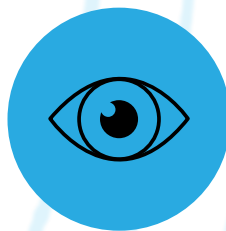
TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR KC⁹



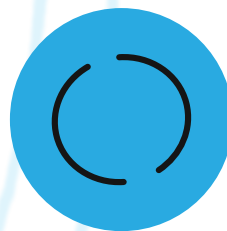
Eyeglasses or Soft Contact Lenses



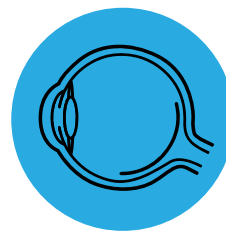
Specialty Contact Lenses (RGP, Scleral, Hybrid)



Corneal Cross-Linking (CXL)



Intracorneal Ring Segments (ICRS)



Corneal Transplant Surgery

WANT TO LEARN MORE? TAKE THE KC QUIZ



REFERENCES

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3. Singh RB, Parmar UPS, Jhanji V. Prevalence and Economic Burden of Keratoconus in the United States. Am J Ophthalmol. 2024 Mar;259:71–78. doi: 10.1016/j.ajo.2023.11.009.
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