

TREATMENT OPTIONS

The condition progresses over time so there are many stages of treatment.

1. EYEGLASSES

In the early stages of keratoconus, vision can often be corrected adequately with glasses. If your keratoconus is progressing, then crosslinking is usually recommended to strengthen your cornea and help prevent further progression and worsening of your vision.

2. CONTACT LENSES

When irregular astigmatism makes clear vision with glasses impossible, specially fit contact lenses are the next therapeutic step. The rigid lens masks the underlying irregular cornea. However, the steep cone and irregular shape of the cornea makes fitting these lenses challenging. It's important to seek an experienced fitter to maximize success. Proper fitting is crucial to prevent or minimize scarring.

3. CROSSLINKING TREATMENT

Crosslinking is a light-activated treatment that is designed to strengthen and stabilize your cornea to help halt keratoconus progression and prevent worsening of your vision.

4. INTACS® SURGERY

If your condition progresses to the point where a contact lens cannot be fit or does not adequately correct vision, surgery may be necessary. Small plastic ring segments placed in the cornea called Intacs® can produce a more regular corneal surface in 2 out of 3 patients, making it easier to wear contact lenses.

5. CORNEA TRANSPLANT

When satisfactory vision is no longer possible with glasses or contacts, or contacts cannot be worn all day, a cornea transplant can be performed. Price Vision Group will typically offer a deep lamellar corneal transplant (DALK), removing the diseased outer portion of the corner leaving a thin inner layer. DALK can provide results that last a lifetime and heal more quickly and stronger than standard transplants. Many surgeons do not routinely perform DALK which is an advanced surgical procedure available at Price Vision Group.



9002 N. Meridian St.
Indianapolis, IN 46260



Contact:
800-317-3937
crosslinking@cornea.org

Pricevisiongroup.com
Cornea.org

Disclaimer:

The information in this brochure is only general information and not to be taken as healthcare advice.



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CROSSLINKING



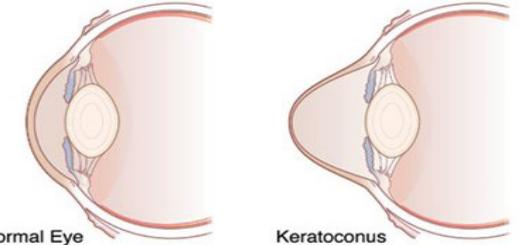
CORNEAL STRENGTHENING TREATMENT FOR KERATOCONUS OR ECTASIA AT



Price Vision Group

WHAT IS KERATOCONUS?

Sometimes the cornea, the clear window on the front of the eye, weakens and bulges outwards causing visual distortion. This is keratoconus (cone-shaped cornea) and usually occurs in both eyes. Ectasia is a similar condition that occurs after refractive surgery.



Keratoconus changes vision in two ways. First, the corneal surface becomes distorted, which is called irregular astigmatism. Second, as the front of the cornea protrudes outwards and thins, the eye becomes nearsighted. These changes dramatically blur your vision which can be impossible to correct with eyeglasses.

RISK FACTORS

- **Heredity:** the chances of a blood relative developing keratoconus is about 10%
- **Ocular allergy, atopic disease**
- **Eye rubbing (this is one you can control)**
- **Down's syndrome, connective tissue disorders**

SYMPTOMS

- **Light sensitivity**
- **Eye strain or itching of the eye**
- **Blurred, distorted or double vision**
- **Poorly fitting contacts**
- **Frequent prescription changes**
- **Rapidly increasing or large increases of nearsightedness and astigmatism**

To diagnose keratoconus, your eye doctor will monitor your visual changes and perform comprehensive imaging to measure the curvature of the cornea.

WHAT IS CROSSLINKING?

Crosslinking is a strengthening treatment for those with changing vision resulting from keratoconus or ectasia. It is proven and effective to stop vision from worsening in most patients. Crosslinking may or may not improve your vision but may prevent a cornea transplant in the future.

You will receive a comprehensive screening to gather exact measurements, a detailed medical history will be taken, and you will be assessed for the following eligibility criteria:

PROVEN PROGRESSION

Comprehensive testing months apart to show your disease is worsening

AGE REQUIREMENT

Keratoconus is not typically diagnosed before 10 years of age

PREGNANCY NOT RECOMMENDED

Typically has not been performed during pregnancy

MINIMUM CORNEAL THICKNESS

Must be greater than 300 microns at the thinnest point

NO CONTACTS

No contacts for a few weeks prior to measurements and for 4 weeks after procedure

FOLLOW UP

You will receive follow up exams to ensure your eye is healing safely

"Before crosslinking, I noticed my contacts weren't doing it, even after a new prescription. I came for crosslinking which was only painful the day of and day after. A few months later I was put into hard contacts and could see much better. The procedure was very much worth it." - Thomas R.

THE PROCESS

01 After being comfortably positioned, numbing drops will be applied to your eye and a special instrument called a speculum will be inserted to hold your eye open.

02 The top layer of skin on the cornea, known as the epithelium, is usually removed. This helps to ensure the most effective outcome of the procedure.

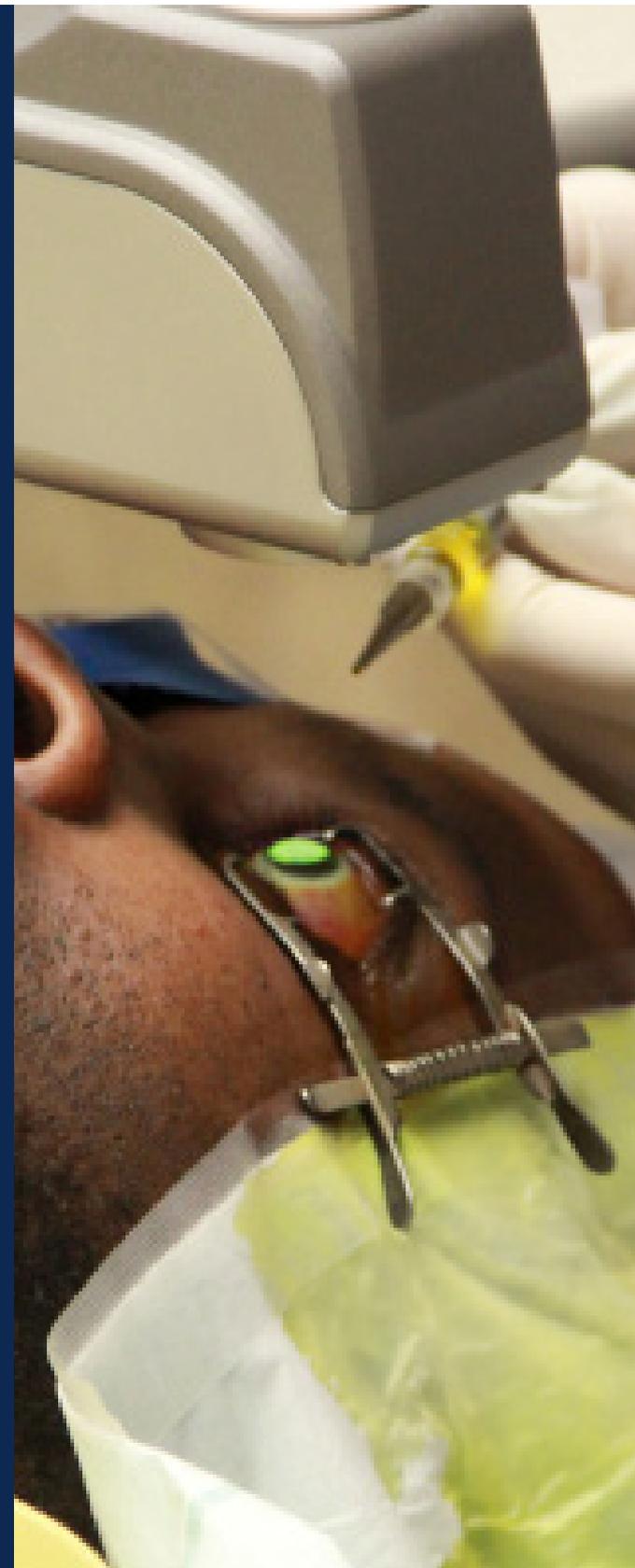
03 You will be positioned under a special UV light while riboflavin solution (vitamin B2) is applied to your cornea at timed intervals. You will be asked to maintain fixation on a central light as best as you can. The procedure is completed using carefully selected parameters that strengthen the front layers of the cornea and avoid damaging the back part of the eye.

04 After treatment, a contact lens will be placed in your eye that will act as a bandaid and you are released to go home to rest.

POST-TREATMENT

At first your vision will be blurry and a pain reliever is recommended. You should avoid activities that cause eye strain such as reading or watching TV for a few days. You will receive prescription medications to help with inflammation and to prevent infection.

You will be examined one day and one week after the procedure.



OUR TEAM



The Price Vision Group Difference

Our award-winning surgeons are fellowship-trained cornea specialists and have trained over 600 surgeons from around the world. With a focus on driving innovation in eye care, our goal is to help you enjoy a lifetime of the best possible vision by providing you with affordable, superior eye care treatment options.

OUR PARTNER



Cornea Research
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In partnership with the Cornea Research Foundation of America, our team enrolled patients in the first USA clinical trials, which began in 2008. The results of those studies led to the FDA determination that crosslinking is a safe and effective treatment. We continue to refine and optimize treatments to strengthen the cornea and stabilize vision.

You will be guided through each step of the evaluation and treatment process by caring, knowledgeable and experienced staff. Please contact us to schedule your evaluation at 800-317-3937.