

WHAT IS THE FDA STATUS ON COLLAGEN CROSS-LINKING?

Though collagen cross-linking has been done in Europe for over 10 years it was only approved by the FDA in 2016 as it was not known how safe and effective it was until long-term trial data had been studied. Now we are pretty sure it is a safe and effective technique and an MBS number is now available for this treatment.

HOW SAFE IS THE PROCEDURE?

No surgical procedure is completely risk free but collagen cross linking is generally very safe. It has been approved as a safe and effective procedure by the US FDA as well as NICE in the UK. They have looked over a lot of data from various clinical trials to come to this verdict.

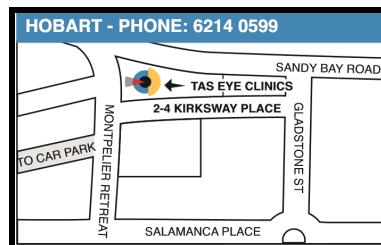
WILL MY VISION BE AFFECTED?

Yes. Initially, your vision will be blurred until the surface epithelium heals. It should be back to normal within a week or so. Sometimes it will improve to a level that is better than it was before the treatment although this is not guaranteed and is not the primary aim of the treatment. We will arrange for you to get a suitable pair of glasses or a trial of contact lenses once the eye has settled enough.

OUR LOCATIONS

HOBART

Ground Floor
2-4 Kirksway Pl,
Hobart.
Tel: 6214 0599
Fax: 62140590



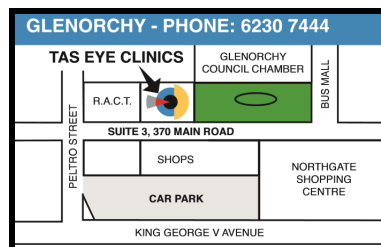
KINGSTON

Shop 77
Channel Court
Shopping Centre,
Kingston.
Tel: 6211 8333
Fax: 6211 8349



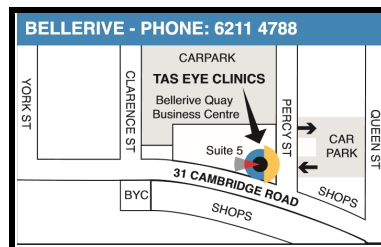
GLENORCHY

Suite 3
370 Main Rd,
Glenorchy.
Tel: 6230 7444
Fax: 62307436



BELLERIVE

Suite 5
Upper Ground
Floor, Bellerive
Quay Business
Centre.
Tel: 6211 4788
Fax: 62459373



doctors@taseye.com.au



www.taseye.com.au



@taseye

WE CARE. WE TREAT. WE PREVENT.



TASMANIAN EYE CLINICS
EYE DOCTORS SPECIALISING AND CARING FOR YOUR EYES

KERATOCONUS & COLLAGEN CROSS-LINKING

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS KERATOCONUS?

Keratoconus is a progressive corneal thinning disorder, which results in progressive short-sightedness, thinning and irregular astigmatism. By that we mean the cornea becomes thin and irregular as it bulges in a conical shape outwards. This makes it difficult to correct vision with glasses. It commences at puberty and progresses until the mid 30's when it usually slows down. Some patients may progress after age 30. Most patients are managed with contact lenses but in up to 20% of cases without treatment, the progression can be so severe that a corneal transplant is required.

WHAT IS COLLAGEN CROSS-LINKING?

Collagen cross-linking is the only treatment presently available that is known to slow down the progression of keratoconus. In this process, the cornea is soaked with riboflavin drops and is exposed to a proprietary UV light source for a variable time depending on the protocol used. This causes the cross-links between the collagen fibers and within the collagen fibers to shorten, which stiffens the cornea and thus stops the progression of keratoconus or Post- Lasik Ectasia. We have been using a modern approach called epithelium on cross-linking assisted by iontophoresis. Studies have shown this to be an affective method that is less painful than the traditional epithelium off protocol. In very rapidly progressive cases, we may still use the original epithelium off method.

WHO ARE SUITABLE PATIENTS?

Ideal patients are individuals whose corneas have become steeper by 1D or more in the past year, whose corneal thickness is more than 400um and whose K readings on topography are not in excess of 58 Diopters. If there has been a rapid change in refraction (spectacle measurement), especially the degree of astigmatism, this is also taken into account.

CAN PATIENTS UNDER 18 BE TREATED?

Yes, they can although there is a greater chance that the keratoconus can continue to progress even after the treatment and so it might need to be repeated.

HOW EFFECTIVE IS THE TREATMENT?

The treatment is very effective. It can actually halt the progression of keratoconus in up to 90% of cases.

IS THE PROCEDURE PAINFUL?

There is little discomfort during the procedure since it is performed under topical anaesthesia. Also, it is comfortable looking at the ultraviolet light during the procedure. Patients do experience varying degrees of postoperative discomfort but we manage this with a bandage contact lens, drops, and strong painkillers, if necessary. We usually leave the bandage lens on for a few days after the procedure. Sometime it might come out at home. If it does – don't panic just leave it out.



HOW LONG DOES THE PROCEDURE TAKE?

The procedure takes about 15 minutes to perform using the epithelium on iontophoresis protocol. It takes longer if we use the traditional epithelium off protocol.

DO I NEED TO TAKE TIME OFF WORK?

Yes, it is recommended that you take at least 3 days off work as the eye can be a bit uncomfortable for the first few days.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

We have very reasonable rates and are happy to provide a quote to any person who is eligible for the treatment.