

## SETTING

Private Optometry Clinic

## PATIENT

You are 22 years old and you accidentally got cement dust in your left eye. It was flushed with cold water and stopped burning by the time you were taken to hospital. You now have a patch over your eye and have been given chloromycetin eye drops. You sustained a cornea burn (~30%). You are anxious because you are getting married in one week and your future husband/wife does not want you to have a patch over your eye.

## TASK

- Explain that the doctor in emergency told you to see an optometrist to check up on the progress of healing daily.
- When asked, explain that you want to know what the cornea does.
- Reluctantly agree to have dye put in to assess the progress but express that it is annoying and a waste of time.
- Express concern that it will not heal in time for the wedding.
- Agree to visit again tomorrow and be reassured that it will improve by the wedding.

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## OPTOMETRIST

A 22-year-old had cement dust in his/her left eye. It was flushed with cold water before going to hospital. The eye was treated with chloromycetin and covered with a patch. Approximately 30% of the cornea was burnt. He/she is getting married in one week and worried because the future spouse does not want him/her to have a patch over the eye at the wedding. The eye is to have daily checks to ensure the rate of healing is appropriate.

## TASK

- Find out what questions the patient has about their condition.
- Explain in simple terms that the cornea refracts light and is an important part of the patient's optical power. (Cornea provides 2/3rds refracting power, the crystalline lens 1/3rd).
- Reinforce to the patient that it will be necessary to have the eye checked daily with UV activated dye (Fluorescein).
- Explain that the cornea contains fast-growing and easily-regenerated cells (stratified squamous epithelial cells).
- Allay the patient's anxiety and be reassuring that the eye should be healed enough to leave the patch off for the wedding.