

Deep corneal ulceration/corneal melting ulcers and corneal surgery

INFORMATION SHEET

What is a corneal ulcer and why does it occur?

An ulcer is a hole of a certain depth (superficial or deep) in the surface of the eye (cornea). There are several reasons for ulcers to develop, including but not limited to, trauma, tear film deficiencies, abnormally grown hairs in contact with the cornea, foreign bodies, etc.

We differentiate superficial from deep ulcers, as deep ulcers are regarded an emergency, which may require immediate surgery to save the eye.

What is a melting corneal ulcer and why does it occur?

A melting ulcer is a process in which the cornea is dissolving, either due to (the products of specific) bacteria or due to proteins within the cornea itself. We generally regard melting ulcers as emergencies, which may require immediate surgery.

Can both eyes be affected?

Absolutely, depending on the underlying cause, however usually only one eye is affected upon presentation.

Are any breeds predisposed?

Any breed of dog can be affected, however we see an overrepresentation in flat faced animals, such as Pugs, Shih Tzus, Lhasa Apsos and Persian cats. This is largely due to a combination of their eyelid conformation, poor tear film quality and a difference in the response of the cornea to treatment.

What treatment options do I have?

Depending on the depth of the ulcer and the presence or absence of infection, intensive medical treatment vs. surgery may be required. Surgery usually involves removal of the damaged part of the cornea and placement of some sort of a graft. Superficial non-infected ulcers may respond well to medical treatment alone.

What happens if I do nothing?

If left untreated, ulcers can progress to the point where the eye can rupture. Once the eye has ruptured, this usually results in permanent loss of vision or the eye.

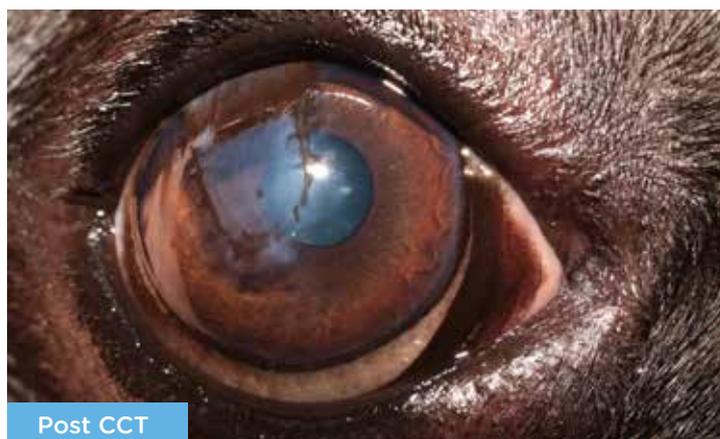
If you have any further questions regarding this or any other condition feel free to ask us during the consultation, or contact us by phone or email.



Dog with ruptured melting ulcer



Melting ulcer and melting descemetocele rupture



Post CCT

Want to know more?

If you have any further questions regarding this or any other condition feel free to ask us during the consultation, or contact us:

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