

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

• Is having a pterygium dangerous?

In general, a pterygium is not dangerous. During the early stages of pterygium development, the main concern is cosmetic and there is no effect on vision. In some cases, the pterygium may continue growing across the eye and can directly block vision or change the shape of the cornea therefore causing blurred vision (astigmatism). In these cases, surgery is recommended.

• Is pterygium cancerous?

No, a pterygium is a benign growth and usually harmless. However, in some cases, it may harbour cancerous cells.

• Is pterygium surgery safe?

Yes, pterygium surgery is generally safe and effective. Modern techniques minimize recurrence and ensure quick recovery.

How to prevent from getting a pterygium?



Wearing sunglasses when you are outside



Wear protective glasses/goggles when welding.



Using artificial tears when your eyes are feeling dry



Wear a wide-brimmed hat

Pterygium (TERR-IJ-EE-UHM)



Contact us

OasisEye Specialists

03 2730 7676

oasiseye.my

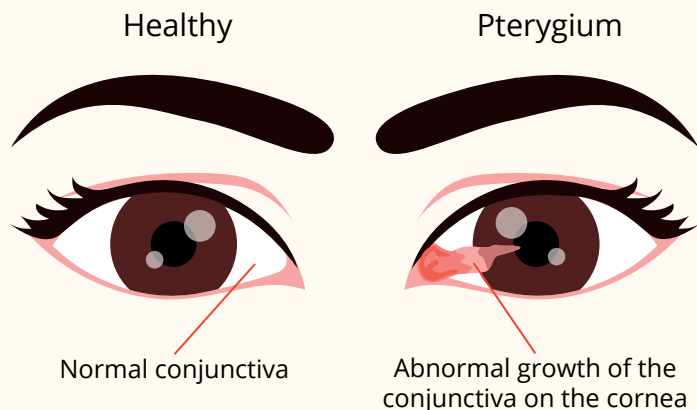
linktr.ee/oasiseye





What is Pterygium ?

A pterygium is a fleshy, triangular or wing-shaped growth on the surface of the eye. Pterygium comes from the Greek word for "wing," which also describes the shape of this growth. It normally **extends from the inner corner towards the center the eye and onto the cornea.**



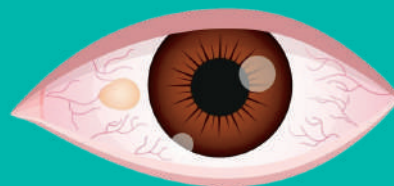
The condition is **usually harmless** but, if a pterygium grows across the cornea, it can cause scarring and sometimes loss of vision.

The growth may also **change the shape of the cornea**, causing vision problems (e.g. astigmatism). One or both eyes can be affected and they won't spread to other parts of your body.

What causes a pterygium?

One of the possible causes for the occurrence of a pterygium is **exposure to UV light from the sun.** Prolonged exposure to sunlight and dry, dusty conditions can be causative factors.

A pterygium can also **develop from a pinguecula** (pronounced pin-GWEK-yoolah). A pinguecula is a small yellow spot or bump that also grows on the surface of the eye near the cornea.



Pinguecula

What are the symptoms of pterygium?

A pterygium can remain unnoticed for years or be mistaken for regular eye irritation. Over time, it may grow and spread onto the cornea.

Common symptoms include:

- Localized redness
- Eye irritation and foreign body sensation
- Dry eye symptoms
- Itching
- Corneal scarring
- Reduced vision when the pterygium covers the central part of the cornea

How is a pterygium treated?

Treatment for minor irritation includes **eye drops or ointments** that help to lubricate and soothe the cornea. For severe inflammation, you may be prescribed a short course of **steroid eye drops**. These medications only ease the symptoms and are not a cure.

Surgery

If the growth is significant and continues to spread across the cornea or causes vision problems, surgery is usually recommended to eliminate associated symptoms and avoid adverse effects on vision. In many instances, people choose to have surgery for cosmetic reasons.

Using modern micro-surgical techniques, the surgeon will:

- Carefully remove the pterygium
- Replace it with a graft of healthy tissue taken from the same eye, which is fixed into place by sutures or tissue glue.

There is a chance that the condition may recur following surgery, but the process of grafting helps to prevent this.