

Pterygium

One of the most common effects of UV damage to the eye is pterygium. This is a triangular growth of thickened degenerative tissue on the white of the eye (the sclera) that may also extend onto the cornea (the window at the front of the eye).

The Cause

Pterygium is more likely to develop in people who work outdoors and spend a lot of time in the sun. It results from irritation due to the long term exposure to UV light, wind, glare or dust.

Symptoms

Many patients are asymptomatic and only notice a change in the appearance of the eye. Others may experience redness, irritation, tearing and discomfort.

Treatment

Usual treatment consists of eliminating the irritation by changing habits, using protective eyewear and/or lubricating eye-drops. Sometimes surgical removal is necessary.

More information

For more information on pterygium or other diseases of the eye, please contact Eyecare Plus Clifton Beach on (07) 4059 1444 or [click here to request an appointment online](#).