

NKCF

National Keratoconus Foundation

Concerns of the Keratoconus Patient

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Incidence of KC is 1:2000

Primarily diagnosed in teens, early 20's

- **high school and college years**
- **affects self esteem**
(driving, sports, school, peer interaction)
- **career choices questioned**

KC also has an impact later in life

- **established careers and jobs in jeopardy**
- **family life affected**
- **financial burden**

**No matter at what age KC is diagnosed,
it has a profound impact on daily life.**

Patient Reactions to KC

- Fear of going blind
- Grief at the loss of vision and loss of dreams
- Depression and frustration
- Feel isolated **No one REALLY understands their vision problems**

- **Anxiety about progression**
- **Daily eye discomforts: pain, light sensitivity, CL issues, fluctuating vision**
- **Fear of job loss due to CL issues (limited wear time, red eyes, frequent doctor visits, etc.)**

Problems Facing the KC Patient

- Reading and computer work
- Driving, especially at night
- Halos, starbursts, multiple images
- Headaches and eye pain
- Red, tearing irritated eyes

Problems Facing the KC Patient

- **Limited CL comfort and wear time ~**
Imagine having only 4, 6, 8 hours of good vision a day
...which hours of the day would you choose?
- **Financial impact of lenses & frequent office visits** (Limited or no Insurance reimbursements for care)

No wonder KC patients are depressed, frustrated and angry!

The NKCF helps by providing:

**Information
&
Support**

National Keratoconus Foundation

The NKCF is an outreach program of the **Discovery Eye Foundation**, a non-profit organization.

The NKCF is dedicated to:

- increasing the awareness and understanding of KC
- providing information to patients and their families
- supporting keratoconus research.

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Patient Support Services

- **Informational Materials:**
 - ~ *What is Keratoconus?*
 - ~ *Corneal Transplant Surgery Guide*
 - * both available in English and Spanish
 - ~ *NKCF Newsletter*

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Patient Support Services

- **Local and E-Mail (KC-Link) Support Groups**
KC-Link is an e-mail based support group with over 2000 members worldwide!
- **Referrals to KC Specialists**

NKCF Patient Support Services

- Local Patient Education Seminars
- Transplant Buddy Program
- Web site: www.nkcf.org
- Toll Free Information Line **800 521-2524**

NKCF Research Support

- **KC Tissue Procurement Program**
- **Annual ARVO Roundtable**
- **Sponsors KC Collaborative Meetings**
- **Maintains a database of KC information**
- **Grants for Keratoconus Research**

For more information about the National Keratoconus Foundation

Visit our website: www.nkcf.org

Call the office: (800) 521-2524

Thank You!