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.
NKCF
Patient Support Services

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