

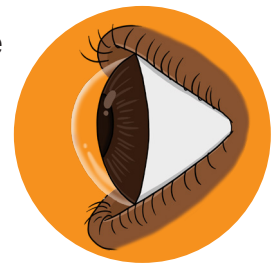
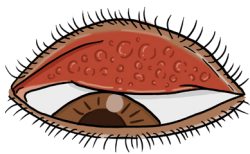


Trachoma (tra-ko-ma)

Trachoma is an eyes disease caused by bacteria it is mainly seen in some rural and remote areas of Australia.

If trachoma is not treated or if you have ongoing infections, scarring can start on the inside of the eyelid.

The scarring can make the eyelashes growing inward, rubbing on the eye. If the eye is rubbed for many years it can damage the cornea and cause blindness.



Trachoma is very infectious and spreads easily from:

- contact with someone who has the infection (hands, eye or nose discharge)
- sharing clothes, towels, bedding
- not cleaning face and hands regularly with soap
- crowded home
- no clean water or working bathroom
- age between 4 to 6 years old
- lots of flies around spreading the bacteria.



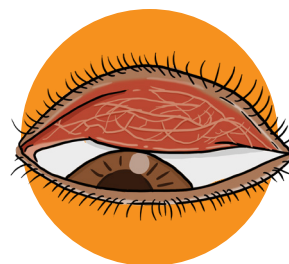
Signs and symptoms



Itching and sore eyes and pain



Blurry vision



Scarring on the inside of the eye lid



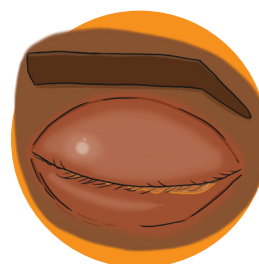
Eye lashes turn into the eye or corneal scarring



Watery eyes



Redness of the white part of the eye



Eyelids swelling or discharge from the eyes



Dislike bright light

The ophthalmologist (eye doctor) will do an eye exam and ask you questions. A swab of the eye is needed to see if bub has trachoma.

Treatment

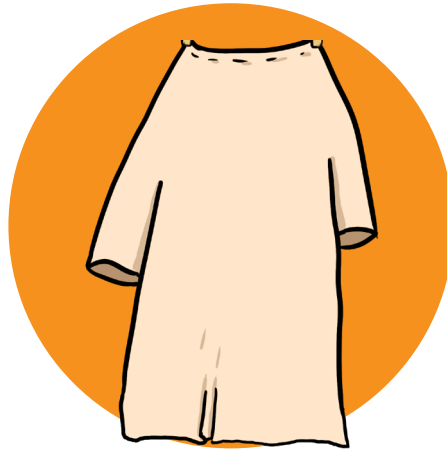
- A single oral dose of the antibiotic will kill the bacteria.
- Everyone living in the house must take the antibiotics to stop it spreading.
- Your ophthalmologist will let you know if other treatments are needed.



To reduce the spread of trachoma it is important to:



Keep face, hand and eyes clean using soap



Don't share towels and face cloths, clothes and bedding



Regular hand washing

See your GP or health clinic if you don't feel well.



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Child and Adolescent Health Service

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Disclaimer: This publication is for general education and information purposes. Contact a qualified healthcare professional for any medical advice needed.

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