

Ophthalmology

Bandage Contact Lenses

What is a bandage contact lens?

A bandage contact lens is worn over the front surface of the eye to protect or support areas affected by disease or injury. The lens is inserted by an eye doctor or optometrist and is usually left in position until your next appointment at the eye department. The lens is made of a soft material and often makes the eye feel more comfortable. Bandage contact lenses do not have any power and will not improve your vision.

Will I feel the lens?

The lens may feel a little irritating immediately after it is inserted. This should settle down and become more comfortable within a few minutes.

You may feel that the lens becomes dry during the night or immediately on waking. If this is the case, prescribed lubricating eye drops can relieve these symptoms.

Do I need to handle the lens?

No. The bandage contact lens will be left in your eye until your next appointment at the eye department. On rare occasions our patients may be required to insert and remove their own bandage contact lens; however, your eye specialist will inform you of this and teach you how to handle the lens if required.

How long will I need to keep the contact lens in for?

This depends but usually the lens is kept in for a few weeks; however, this may be longer depending on your eye condition.



Can I still use my eye drops?

Yes, eye drops can still be used when wearing the contact lens providing the drops are preservative free.

What are the risks of wearing a bandage contact lens?

The lens may displace or fall out before your next appointment. If this happens you should contact the eye department to have a new lens inserted.

Wearing a bandage contact lens continuously throughout the day and night increases the risk of developing a serious eye infection. A serious eye infection can be sight threatening and in certain situations can cause the loss of an eye. It is estimated that 25 people out of 10,000 people each year will develop a serious eye infection from wearing soft contact lenses on a continuous basis.

To lessen the risk of infections, it is important to maintain good hygiene. You should not need to touch the bandage contact lens; however, if you do hands should be washed with soap and water, and then dried thoroughly.

- You should avoid getting water in your eyes whilst wearing the bandage contact lens.
- You should not swim or enter Jacuzzis or spa facilities whilst wearing your contact lens.
- You should avoid wearing make-up whilst the lens is in your eye.

What should I be aware of?

If your eye becomes red, sore, irritable, painful, and very watery or has a sticky discharge you should contact the eye department right away. If you suspect there is a problem with your eye or bandage contact lens, do not hesitate to seek medical advice.

Contact Numbers

Optometry Dept Tel: 024 7696 6516
Monday to Friday (9.00am – 4.00pm)

UHCW Eye Casualty Dept (Clinic 9) Tel: 024 76 964800
Opening hours: Monday –Thursday 8.30am- 4.30pm
Friday 8.30-4.00pm
Saturday 8.30-12.00pm (emergencies only)

Outside of these hours the main Accident and Emergency Department at University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire will be open, and an on-call Ophthalmologist will be available.

The trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please contact us on 024 7696 6516 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

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Document History

Department:	Ophthalmology
Contact:	26516
Updated:	April 2023
Review:	April 2025
Version:	6
Reference:	HIC/LFT/1609/13