iLink™ Corneal Cross-Linking
Patient FAQs

What is keratoconus?

Keratoconus, often referred to as "KC," is a non-inflammatory eye condition in which the typically round, dome-shaped cornea (the clear part of your eye) progressively thins and weakens, causing a cone-like bulge and optical irregularity of the cornea. Keratoconus can result in significant visual loss and may lead to corneal transplant if left untreated.

What is iLink™ corneal cross-linking?

iLink™ is the only FDA-approved corneal cross-linking procedure for the treatment of progressive keratoconus, which means it has been proven safe and effective in rigorous clinical studies. This minimally invasive outpatient procedure uses specially formulated prescription eye drops called Photrexa® (riboflavin 5'-phosphate ophthalmic solution) and Photrexa® Viscous (riboflavin 5'-phosphate in 20% dextran ophthalmic solution), combined with ultraviolet (UV) light from the KXL® System, to slow or halt the progression of disease.

What is riboflavin?

Under the conditions used for iLink™ corneal cross-linking, specially formulated pharmaceutical-strength riboflavin eye drops called Photrexa® and Photrexa® Viscous enable the cross-linking reaction to help slow or stop keratoconus from progressing.

What is UV light?

iLink™ corneal cross-linking applies an artificial source of UV light from a machine called the KXL® System once the cornea has been soaked in the Photrexa® and Photrexa® Viscous eye drops. This process works to stiffen the cornea by increasing the number of molecular bonds, or cross-links, in the collagen.

Does iLink™ corneal cross-linking require removal of the epithelium?

Yes, your doctor will apply topical anesthesia to numb the eye prior to the removal of the epithelium. This process helps prepare your eye so that the drug can penetrate the tissue of the cornea to have an effective iLink™ procedure. Today, this is the only cross-linking procedure deemed safe and effective by the United States FDA.

Am I awake during the procedure?

Yes, typically you will be awake during the treatment. You may be given relaxing medication and numbing anesthetic drops.

How long does the procedure take?

The actual procedure takes about an hour, but you will be at the office for approximately 2 hours to allow sufficient time for preparation and recovery before you return to the comfort of your own home.

What can I expect during the procedure?

- After numbing drops are applied, the epithelium (the thin layer on the surface of the cornea) is gently removed
- Photrexa® Viscous eye drops will be applied to the cornea for at least 30 minutes
- Depending on the thickness of your cornea, Photrexa® drops may also be required
- The cornea is then exposed to UV light for 30 minutes while additional Photrexa® Viscous drops are applied

What can I expect after the procedure?

- You should not rub your eyes for the first 5 days after the procedure
- You may notice a sensitivity to light and an uncomfortable sensation in the treated eye. Sunglasses may help with light sensitivity
- If you experience severe pain in the eye or any sudden decrease in vision, you should contact your physician immediately
- If your bandage contact lens from the day of treatment falls out or becomes dislodged, you should not replace it. Contact your physician immediately

Does it hurt?

There is some discomfort during immediate recovery but usually not during the treatment. Immediately following treatment, a bandage contact lens is placed on the surface of the eye to protect the newly treated area. After the numbing drops wear off, there is some discomfort, often described as a gritty, burning sensation managed with acetaminophen and artificial tears. If pain is severe, oral narcotic medications may be prescribed.

Can anyone tell by my appearance that I have had iLink™ cross-linking?

No. There is no change in the appearance of your eyes following an iLink™ procedure.

Is iLink™ right for me?

Patients who have been diagnosed with progressive keratoconus should ask their doctor whether they may be an appropriate candidate for iLink™ corneal cross-linking.

Will I need to be out of my contact lenses for this process?

Yes. Typically, doctors ask their patients to stop wearing contact lenses prior to surgery for several weeks. Once treated, patients may not be allowed back into contact lenses for up to 1 month.

How much does an iLink™ procedure cost?

The iLink™ procedure is widely covered by commercial insurance policies in the United States. Please contact your insurance carrier or your healthcare provider to understand any out-of-pocket costs you may be responsible for.

Summary of Information About Corneal Cross-Linking

What is corneal cross-linking?

• iLink™ is the only FDA-approved corneal cross-linking procedure for the treatment of progressive keratoconus. This minimally invasive outpatient procedure uses specially formulated prescription eye drops called Photrexa® and Photrexa® Viscous, combined with uv light from the KXL System to slow or halt the progression of disease

• The safety and effectiveness of corneal cross-linking has not been established in pregnant women, women who are breastfeeding, patients who are younger than 14 years of age and patients 65 years of age or older

What warnings should I know about iLink™ corneal cross-linking?

- Ulcerative keratitis, a potentially serious eye infection, can occur
- Your doctor should monitor your resolution of epithelial defects if they occur

What are the side effects of iLink™ corneal cross-linking?

- The most common ocular adverse reactions in any corneal cross-linked eye were haze (corneal opacity), inflammation (punctate keratitis), fine white lines (corneal striae), disruption of surface cells (corneal epithelium defect), eye pain, reduced sharpness of vision (visual acuity) and blurred vision

The risk information provided here is not comprehensive. To learn more, talk about iLink™ corneal cross-linking with your healthcare provider.

The FDA-approved product labeling can be found at www.LivingWithKeratoconus.com.
You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA.
Visit FDA.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Photrexa® Viscous, Photrexa®, and the KXL System are available for sale in the United States.

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