

What is a pingueculum?

A raised yellow-white area of altered tissue on the white of the eye, usually beside the cornea. It is generally harmless and does not normally threaten vision. It differs from a pterygium, which grows onto the cornea and can affect sight.

Do you need treatment?

Most pinguecula do not need removing, and the presence of one is not by itself a reason to treat. Treatment may be considered if yours repeatedly becomes inflamed or irritated, causes persistent symptoms, or its appearance bothers you enough to justify the recovery involved. If leaving it alone is the better option, we will say so.

Your alternatives

Leaving it alone carries no procedural risk. Lubricating drops help grittiness, and topical treatment settles an inflamed pingueculum without removing it. Good ultraviolet protection and avoiding wind and dust remain sensible whether or not you proceed.

Two treatment options, and they are not equivalent

Surgery removes the pingueculum from the conjunctival surface under local anaesthetic, usually in a single procedure. Laser is non-excisional and reduces the lesion progressively, which often requires more than one session. The laser fee covers a second treatment within 12 months if required; further sessions are charged separately, and the total number cannot be guaranteed beforehand.

Why most patients choose surgery

Approximately 90 to 95 per cent of Blue Fin Vision® patients who proceed with treatment choose surgical removal, because it offers definitive removal in one treatment episode. When comparing the options on cost, compare the likely total of a laser pathway rather than the price of a single session.

Before treatment

Your consultant confirms the lesion is a pingueculum rather than a pterygium or another conjunctival lesion, assesses its size and position, and discusses whether treatment is likely to improve symptoms, appearance or both. Photographs may be taken to document your starting point, because memory of how an eye looked beforehand is unreliable.

Drops after surgery

Chloramphenicol drops for five days, and steroid drops for two months, tapered as instructed. Do not stop the steroid early because the eye looks or feels better, unless your consultant tells you to: the conjunctiva keeps healing long after the eye is comfortable.

Recovery takes about two months

The cosmetic recovery is far longer than the procedure. The eye can initially look redder and more noticeable than it did before treatment, which is healing rather than the result. Redness, grittiness, swelling and irritation settle progressively. Do not judge the final appearance in the first days or weeks.

What result to expect

Surgery aims to remove the visible lesion and leave a smoother, less conspicuous surface; laser aims to reduce it progressively. No treatment can guarantee that the treated area becomes indistinguishable from conjunctiva that never developed a pingueculum. Some residual redness, vessels or slight irregularity can remain.

Main risks

Redness, irritation and inflammation are expected during healing. Other risks include infection, visible scarring, persistent redness or prominent blood vessels, surface irregularity, an imperfect cosmetic result and recurrence. Recurrence is possible because the environmental factors that caused the lesion remain.

Further treatment

Surgery is intended to remove the existing lesion in one procedure, although further treatment or recurrence cannot be excluded. With laser, repeated treatment is part of the planned pathway rather than evidence that a session failed, and there is no obligation to continue if the improvement achieved is enough for you.

Warning signs

Contact Blue Fin Vision® promptly for increasing rather than improving pain, rapidly worsening redness or swelling, discharge, a significant reduction in vision or marked light sensitivity. Normal healing settles progressively rather than worsening.

Costs

Consultation and diagnostic assessment: £325. Surgical removal, per eye: from £1,000 for one pingueculum, £1,800 for two, £2,400 for three, £2,850 for four. Argon laser: from £1,000 per pingueculum at The Harley Street Eye Centre, including a second treatment within 12 months if required, with further sessions charged separately. Current pricing is published online at [our published price list](#) and may change. Treatment for appearance is not normally covered by private medical insurance.

This page is a summary, not a consent document

It does not replace the full Pingueculum Removal patient information booklet, which contains the complete information on surgical and laser treatment, alternatives, recovery, risks and costs, and which forms part of your informed consent alongside your discussion with your surgeon and your consent form. Please read the full booklet before your appointment. In full: [The Blue Fin Vision® Advantage](#)