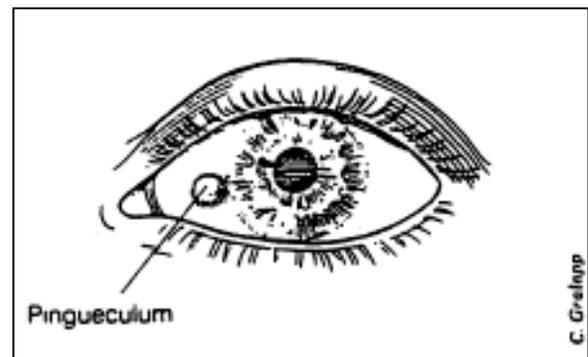


is large enough to threaten sight, is growing, or unsightly, it can be removed surgically.

Despite proper surgical removal, the Pterygium may return, particularly in young people. Surface radiation or medications are sometimes used to help prevent recurrences. Protecting the eyes from excessive ultraviolet light with proper sunglasses and avoiding dry, dusty condition may also help.

What is a Pingueculum?

A Pingueculum is a yellowish patch or bump on the white of the eye, most often on the side closest to the nose. It is not a tumor, but an alternation of normal tissue resulting in a deposit of protein and fat. Unlike a Pterygium, a Pingueculum does not actually grow onto the cornea. A Pingueculum may also be a response to chronic eye irritation or sunlight



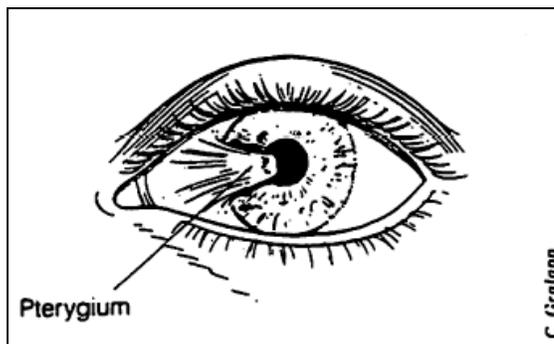
How is Pingueculum Treated?

No treatment is necessary unless it becomes inflamed.

Pterygium and Pingueculum

What Is a Pterygium?

A Pterygium is a fleshy growth that invades the cornea (the clear front window of the eye). It is an abnormal process in which the conjunctiva (a membrane that covers the white of the eye) grows into the cornea. Pterygium may be small or grow large enough to interfere with vision and commonly occur on the inner corner of the eye.



What Causes Pterygium?

The exact cause is not well understood. Pterygium occur more often in people who spend a great deal of time outdoors, especially in sunny climates. Long-term exposure to sunlight, especially ultraviolet (UV) rays, and chronic eye irritation from dry, dusty conditions seem to play an important casual role.

How Is Pterygium Treated?

When a Pterygium becomes red and irritated, topical eye drops or ointments may be used to help reduce the inflammation. If the Pterygium