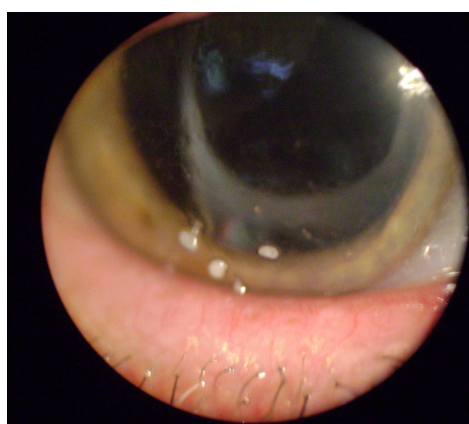


## Dry Eyes – Filaments.

Dry eyes is a condition where the eyes become very dry and ranges from very mild symptoms where just the occasional use of lubricating drops is needed to more moderate cases where regular use of advanced eyedrops are required and even the use of punctal plugs.

However some people develop severe dry eyes. In these people the eye can react by producing mucus which adheres to the cornea producing filament strands. These strands come from the superficial epithelium of the cornea and are connected to the corneal nerves. Thus the strands like trees in the wind move every time the patient blinks their eyes. This causes intensive pain. Very often the reaction is to keep the eye closed preventing the movement of the filaments and thus reducing the pain.

This photograph of a patient one can see the white filaments on the cornea. The patient was given acetylcysteine eyedrops which dissolved these filaments over the next few weeks.



The Dr in this case is likely to use acetylcysteine or Ilube which is a drop that is specifically designed to dissolve mucus strands and relieve this intense discomfort. The drop was administered two or three times a day until the strands are dissolved. The eyedrops do sting a little but this will settle quickly. In addition the Dr is likely to advise continuing the use of lubricating drops and quite possibly may use a mild steroid if there is significant inflammation as well.

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