


EYE PROBLEMS IN EB

In epidermolysis bullosa (EB), the eye can often be involved and therefore, regular assessment by an ophthalmologist may be required. Below is a list of common eye issues related to EB .

Common Symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red, watery eyes • Eye pain • Photophobia: sensitivity to light
Eye Issues 	<p>The eyelid protects your eye from physical debris and lubricates it to keep it moist. In EB, patients can get:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eyelid blisters. • Ectropion: the outward turning of the eyelid e.g. due to scarring of the skin in EB. • Entropion: the inward turning of the eyelid due to scarring inside the lid. Both entropion and ectropion may require surgery to correct. <p>The conjunctiva is a thin membrane that cover the inside of your eyelids and the sclera. It is involved in eye lubrication and protection of the eye from infection. In EB, the conjunctiva can be affected by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conjunctival blisters • Conjunctival edema: swelling of the conjunctiva due to fluid build-up from inflammation and irritation. • Conjunctival injection: reddening of the conjunctiva due to irritation. • Symblepharon: the attachment (due to scarring) of the conjunctiva on the inside of the eyelid with that over the outer, white portion of the eye, the sclera. This may require surgery to remove the scar tissue and amniotic membrane grafts to promote normal healing. <p>The cornea is the clear curved layer of the eye that lies above the coloured part of your eye, the iris. It part of your vision system that allows light to be focused on the back of your eye. In EB, the following can occur to the cornea:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corneal abrasion: scratching of the cornea, leading to marked pain, blurry vision & tearing. • This will require antibiotic eye drops to prevent infection, and the use of a patch or a bandage contact lens to reduce pain and speed healing. Sometimes dilating drops (cycloplegics) are given to reduce pain. • Corneal pannus: formation of scar tissue on the cornea that can block vision and cause irritation. In severe cases this can be removed surgically.
<p>Useful Websites/links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.swrwoundcareprogram.ca • EB Resources, including EB handbook: https://www.debracanada.org 	

Disclaimer: Unless stated otherwise, information contained in this document is taken from Epidermolysis Bullosa: A Handbook for EB Patients and Families, Developed by the Section of Dermatology at the Hospital for Sick Children with the Support of DEBRA Canada and Sick Kids Hospital Department of Dermatology EB Expert Team - all content used with permission. This document was created by SWRWCP (August, 2019)