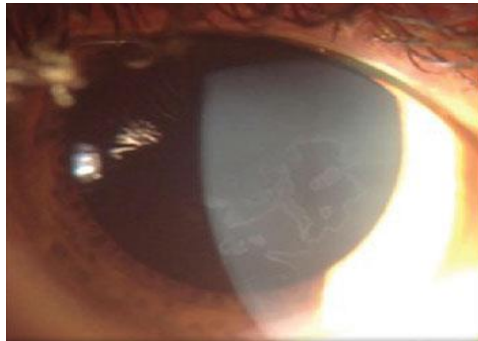


## The Quick Summary

You have nothing to worry about. There is a very common change present in your cornea that will probably never affect you.

### Epithelial Basement Membrane Dystrophy

Dr. Shalwala sees some changes in the outside part of your cornea. The cornea is a clear “windshield” that is the very front of your eyeball. The cornea has different layers, and the very outside layer is the epithelium. The epithelium can be thought of as the “skin” of the cornea, which is a layer that can regenerate and replace itself (the way we typically think of skin). The other main parts of the cornea (the stroma and the endothelium) do not regenerate at the same rapid rate.



The epithelium has cells in it, which are held in place tightly by attachment to what we call a “basement membrane.” The basement membrane keeps the epithelium rooted where it is. Most people have a smooth, even basement membrane that extends over the entire cornea.

Some people have a condition in which the basement membrane is not smooth and even. There are some irregularities. You have some of these irregularities. Most likely, you inherited a tendency to have these sorts of irregularities.

If the irregularities are right in the center of the cornea, they can sometimes affect vision. In some cases, the irregularities cause the epithelium to not be held in place as tightly. In this case, a light injury might cause some of the epithelium to be lost. When the epithelium is lost, there is a “scratch” on the eye.

None of these things are happening in your eye, and most likely, they never will. However, it is important for us to track and know about these changes in your eye, because it can affect other things like your eyeglasses prescription.

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