

## The Quick Summary

There is a scratch on your cornea, which is associated with a virus. Almost all of us have had the virus for most of our lives; it just happened to activate in you now. You might go your whole life never experiencing an activation of the virus again.

### Herpes Simplex Virus

You have a scratch on your eye that Dr. Shalwala thinks is related to the herpes simplex virus. This is the same virus that causes cold sores on lips. Almost all of us have this virus on our faces, but it only manifests as cold sores or scratches on the eyes in some people. Why is it active in your eye? We don't have a good answer; it is just the "luck of the draw" as far as we know.

We can do some antiviral and other treatments that will help this go away.

One thing to keep in mind is that this virus has been with you for a long time and will continue to be with you for a long time. In a lot of cases, this one scratch is the only thing a patient experiences of herpes simplex virus in the eyes. However, it can have a lot of other manifestations, including more scratches just like these. It can also cause other problems including swelling of the cornea and other problems in the future as well, though it is important to remember that many people never have those types of recurrent problems.



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<http://ajayshalwalamd.com/>

**DOVER**  
833 S. Governors Ave  
Dover, DE 19904  
(302) 674-1121  
(302) 674-3891

**NEWARK**  
333 E. Main St.  
Newark, DE 19711  
(302) 368-9105  
(302) 369-6563

**DOVER-RUDNICK**  
16 Old Rudnick Ln.  
Dover, DE 19901  
(302) 734-1760  
(302) 734-1720

**MILFORD**  
110 N E Front Street  
Milford, DE 19963  
(302) 422-5155  
(302) 422-5118

**SMYRNA**  
100 S Main St. Ste. 217  
Smyrna, DE 19977  
(302) 653-9200  
(302) 653-9366

**BEAR**  
1721 Pulaski Hwy  
Bear, DE 19701  
(302) 836-5410  
(302) 836-5477