

Anterior Basement Membrane Dystrophy

What?

So What?

Now What?



Anterior Basement Membrane Dystrophy (ABMD) is a common condition that affects the front window of the eye (cornea) where the epithelium corneal layer adheres irregularly.

Acknowledgments: Samuel, A., Kumar, A., Baig, K., Sabeti, S.

What causes ABMD?

- The **cornea** is the clear, dome-shaped surface at the front of the eye that helps focus light on the retina.
 - ABMD is a disorder that affects the epithelial cells of the cornea, which make up the surface protective layer.
 - In ABMD, the epithelial cells are irregular and do not properly adhere to the underlying basement membrane.
 - This results in irregular patterns on clinical exam, resembling maps, dots, or fingerprints.
 - ABMD is also known as **map-dot-fingerprint dystrophy**

Risk Factors:

- Family history
- Previous trauma to ocular surface (corneal abrasions, surgery)

How does ABMD present?

Although ABMD may not cause any symptoms in all patients, some patients may present with:

- Blurry or fluctuating vision
- Eye discomfort / irritation
- Foreign body sensation
- Increased light sensitivity
- Painful episodes if corneal surface cells slough off

Why is ABMD important?

ABMD is important to manage and treat to prevent complications and improve vision and comfort.

- Left untreated, pain and increased risk of infection can occur due to recurrent corneal erosions.
- Before cataract surgery, ABMD may need to be treated for optimal intraocular lens calculations.

Early intervention through a comprehensive eye exam can greatly improve long-term visual health.

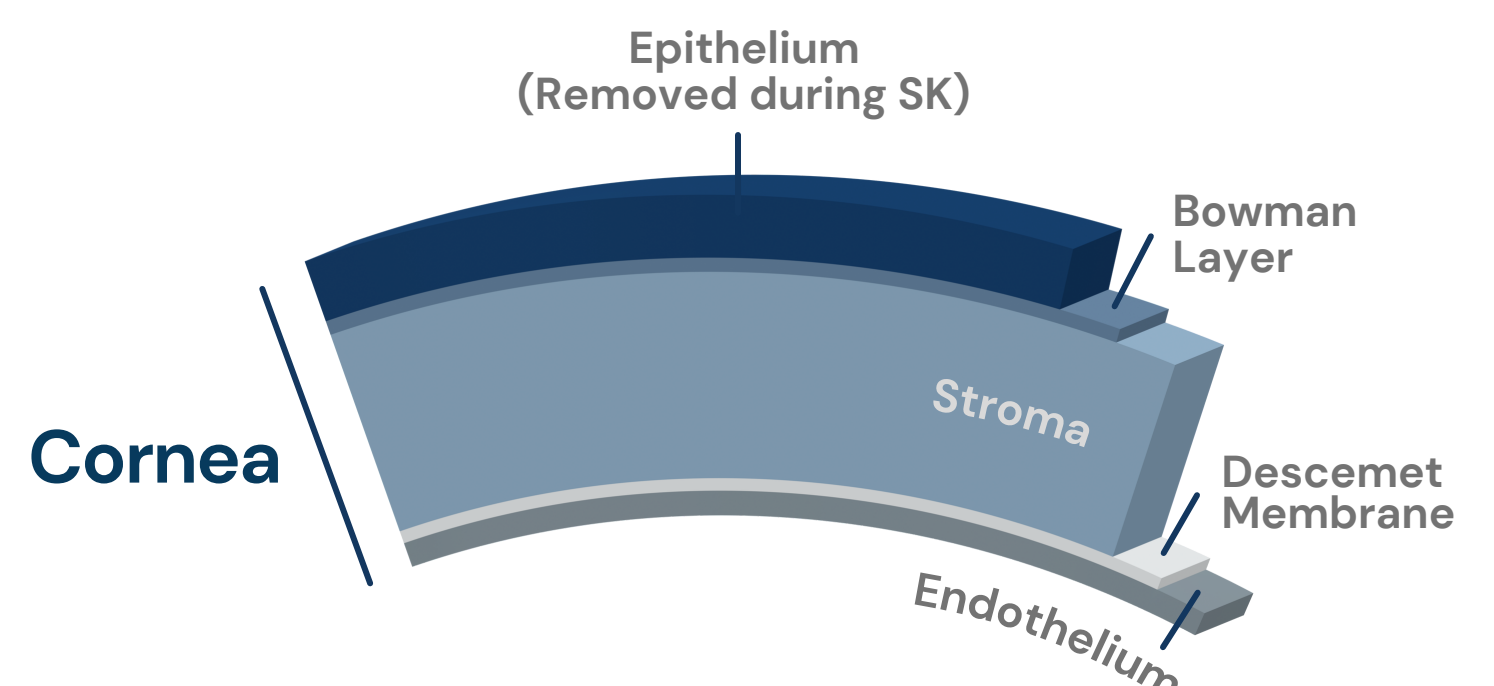
What are my treatment options?

Topical Medications:

- **Lubricating Eye Drops**
 - Can relieve dryness and associated discomfort.
- **Topical Medications**
 - Can reduce inflammation while promoting corneal healing.

Surgical Options – Superficial Keratectomy (SK):

- **WHAT is a superficial keratectomy?**
 - A minor surgical procedure where the abnormal epithelial layer is removed from the cornea, resulting in a smoother ocular surface.
- **WHY is a superficial keratectomy performed?**
 - To treat corneal dystrophies, scars, and irregularities
 - To improve vision and reduce visual disturbances
 - To prepare the eye for cataract surgery, if indicated
- **HOW is a superficial keratectomy performed?**
 - Specialized instruments are used to carefully remove the targeted epithelial layer of the cornea under local anesthesia (you will be awake, but your eye will be numb).
 - Takes ~5-10 minutes to complete.
- **The decision to perform a superficial keratectomy with or without polish or the use of additional topical agents is typically based on the specific needs of the patient and is made on a case-by-case basis.**



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Preoperative Instructions

- **Procedure Location:**
 - The superficial keratectomy procedure will take place in a dedicated minor procedure room.
- **Anesthesia:**
 - To ensure your comfort throughout the procedure, both topical and subconjunctival anesthetic will be administered.
 - These anesthetics will numb the ocular surface, minimizing any potential discomfort during the surgery.
- **Sedation:**
 - Please note that no sedation will be provided for this procedure.
 - You will be awake throughout, but the anesthetics will ensure you experience minimal discomfort.
- **Duration:**
 - Typically, the superficial keratectomy procedure takes approximately 5-10 minutes.
- **Eye Patching:**
 - After the procedure, your eye will be patched to protect it and promote healing.
 - Your surgeon will provide specific instructions on when and how to remove the patch. It is crucial to follow their guidance to ensure proper recovery.

Postoperative Instructions

- 1) **Use prescribed eye drops as directed by your doctor to prevent infection and promote healing:**
 - Eye drops will be prescribed to prevent infection, reduce inflammation, and help the cornea heal properly. Follow the recommended dosage and frequency.
- 2) **Avoid rubbing or touching your eyes:**
 - Rubbing or touching your eyes can irritate the surgical site and disrupt the healing process.
- 3) **Wear protective eyewear, such as sunglasses, to shield your eyes from dust, wind, and bright light:**
 - Protecting your eyes from environmental factors can help prevent complications and promote a comfortable healing process.
- 4) **Avoid swimming or exposing your eyes to water for 2 to 4 weeks, as advised by your doctor:**
 - Water can introduce bacteria into the eyes and increase the risk of infection. Your doctor will inform you when it is safe to resume these activities.

Patient Surgery Journey Video



Your Minor Procedure Details

- Date: _____
- Time: _____
- Location: Precision Cornea Centre
- Surgeon: _____
- Follow Up: _____
- Additional Notes: _____