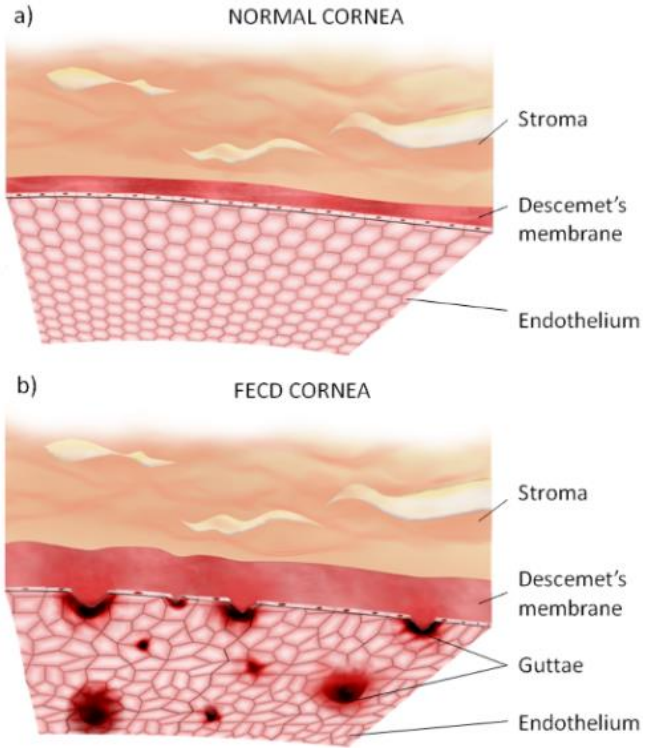
# Fuch’s Endothelial Corneal Dystrophy (FECD)




In Fuchs' (fewks) dystrophy, **fluid builds up in the clear layer (cornea) on the front of your eye, causing your cornea to swell and thicken**.

This can lead to glare, blurred or cloudy vision, and eye discomfort.

Fuchs' dystrophy usually affects both eyes and can cause your vision to gradually worsen over the years.

**Symptoms:**

- Blurred or cloudy vision, sometimes described as a general lack of clarity of vision.
- Fluctuation in vision, with worse symptoms in the morning after awakening and gradually improving during the day.
- Glare, which can decrease your vision in dim and bright light.
- Seeing halos around lights.
- Pain or grittiness from tiny blisters on the surface of your cornea.

**Causes:**

Fuchs' dystrophy is usually inherited. The genetic basis of the disease is complex — family members can be affected to varying degrees or not at all.

**Treatments:**

**Medications:**

- **Saline (5% sodium chloride) eyedrops** or ointments can help reduce the amount of fluid in your cornea.

**Surgery**

People who have surgery for advanced Fuchs' dystrophy can have much better vision and remain symptom-free for years afterward. Surgical options include:

- **Transplanting the inner layer of the cornea**. Known as Descemet membrane endothelial keratoplasty (DMEK), this procedure involves replacing the back layer of the cornea with healthy endothelial cells from a donor. The procedure is usually done with local anesthesia in an outpatient setting.
- **Transplanting the cornea**. Your doctor may recommend a partial-thickness cornea transplant, a procedure known as Descemet-stripping endothelial keratoplasty (DSEK). Rarely, a full-thickness cornea transplant, known as penetrating keratoplasty (PK), may be recommended.