What is Keratoconus?

Keratoconus is a vision disorder where a normally-round cornea is thinned and a conical bulge develops. This shape causes light to be focused incorrectly on the back of the eye, or the retina. Symptoms of Keratoconus include vision distortion, blurred vision, sensitivity to light, halos, glares, and double vision. Other symptoms include eye strain and difficulty with activities, such as driving or watching television.

What causes Keratoconus?

Symptoms of Keratoconus usually arise in the late teens and early 20’s and in either one or both eyes. Causes of the disease are unknown, but researchers believe that Keratoconus is associated with genetics. Eye injury, eye rubbing, and wearing contact lenses incorrectly are also affiliated with the disease.

What are treatments of Keratoconus?

For mild cases of Keratoconus, glasses could be used to treat the disease. However, as it progresses, gas permeable or rigid lenses are used to correct the distorted vision caused by uneven refraction of light in the eye. For more severe cases, treatments include implantable corneal devices called Intacs that reshape the cornea. In addition, about 10 to 20 percent of patients with Keratoconus receive corneal transplants to replace their diseased cornea.

Early detection of Keratoconus is very important and can be detected with a corneal topography screening at annual eye exams.
References:


http://www.aao.org/eye-health/diseases/keratoconus-treatment

http://www.aao.org/eye-health/diseases/what-is-keratoconus