

Protocol Name	Eye Injury
Created date:	December 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2020
Created by:	Shannon Dallas – Director of Policies and Procedures
Last revised:	

Purpose:

To assess, treat and or triage swiftly individuals presenting with an injury to their eye. Goal is to treat the pain, cleanse/flush as needed, minimize further trauma and refer out as needed.

Sign and Symptoms:

- Burning
- Swelling
- Tenderness
- Bruising
- Pain
- Inability to open eye or keep eye open
- Patient complaining that “something is in my eye”

Assessment:

- Obtain patient’s history, including allergies, medication list and recent activity
- Vital Signs – heart rate, respirations, blood pressure, temperature, pain level and O2 sat level
- Review with patient nature of incident causing injury
- Assess the affected eye

Standing Orders/Intervention:

Treatment is based on the severity of the injury and aims at reducing discomfort/pain. Before tending to any eye injury, wash hands according to policy.

- Assess pain and administer oral Ibuprofen 200mg x 2 tablets or Acetaminophen 500mg x 2 tablets as needed.

If chemical injury suspected:

- Use eyewash to cleanse/flush the affected eye using thumb and pointer finger to hold open the upper and lower eyelids.
- Apply Triple Antibiotic Ointment to affected eye to help prevent infection due to potential of chemical burn.
- Place sterile gauze over affected eye and wrap with Kerlex.
- Apply cold compress to minimize swelling.
- Refer to ER for immediate follow up – 911 if there is no one available to help transport patient.

If foreign particles suspected:

- Use eyewash to cleanse/flush the affected eye using thumb and pointer finger to hold open the upper and lower eyelids.
- Repeat flush as needed.
- Assess for improvement and refer patient to follow up with primary care physician or Urgent Care center as needed.

If impaled eye injury:

- Do not put any pressure on the impaled object or the eyeball.
- Cover both eyes with a combine dressing, making sure not to put pressure on either eye (this keeps the eyes from moving and causing more damage).
- Activate 911 Emergency Services.
- Educate patient to keep eye as still as possible to avoid further damage.

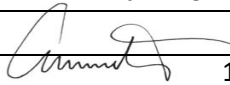
If laceration to eyelid or skin surrounding eye area:

- Cleanse area affected and apply pressure to stop any bleeding.
- If injury requires stitches, refer patient to Urgent Care or ER.
- If injury does not require stitches, apply triple antibiotic ointment and apply bandage.
- Refer patient to follow up with PCP for ongoing treatment of injury.
- Educate patient on signs and symptoms of infection.

If conjunctivitis (inflammation of the eyelid):

- Flush effected eye with eyewash.
- Apply cool moist compress with sterile gauze.
- Encourage patient to use lubricating eye drops to soothe irritation.
- Administer oral Ibuprofen 200mg x 2 tablets or Acetaminophen 500mg x 2 tablets as needed for pain.
- Refer patient to follow up with PCP.

**Eye Injury protocol** is part of Affiliated Physician's **ON-SITE CLINIC PROGRAM**. I, hereby acknowledge, the above has been reviewed and approved. Upon clinical assessment and necessity, these orders are to be activated by an Affiliated Physician's on-site nurse and documentation of each episode is mandatory.

Medical Director – Dr. Avram Nemetz
Signature: 
Date: 12/10/2020