Scripps

Eye Injury Management

To define assessment, treatment, and management of eye injuries

1. As part of the secondary survey assess:
   a. Pain
   b. Visual acuity
   c. Photophobia
   d. Hx of thermal/physical/chemical injury
   e. Hx of corrective lens use
   f. Previous visual acuity
   g. Eye medications

2. Physically examine
   a. Eyes
      i. Gross visual acuity
      ii. Pupils
      iii. Range of motion
      iv. Anterior chamber
      v. Conjunctiva
      vi. Globe
      vii. Retina
      viii. Papilledema
   b. Lids
      i. Laceration
      ii. Ecchymosis
      iii. Edema
   c. Orbits
      i. Symmetry
      ii. Crepitus or instability
   d. Cornea
      i. Apply fluorescein with topical anesthetic
      ii. Examine with ultraviolet light

3. Early intervention
   a. Chemical burns
      i. Copiously irrigate eye with minimum of 1000 ml of warm saline

b. Corneal Injury
    i. Apply topical anesthetic
    ii. Apply antibiotic ointment
    iii. Apply eye patch
c. Eyelid injury
    i. Suture superficial laceration with non-absorbable nylon
    ii. Consider plastics/ophthalmology consult
d. Foreign body or material on eye surface
    i. Irrigate the eye gently with normal saline
    ii. If over sclera, attempt to retrieve with cotton tipped applicator

CONSULT OPTHALMOLOGY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

1. Disrupted globe
2. Retrobulbar hematoma
3. Unequal pupils without central injury
4. Ovoid or notched pupils
5. Lack of full extraocular motion
6. Hyphema
7. Complex eyelid laceration
8. Marked change in visual acuity
9. Foreign body not easily removed

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