

HEMS MCA
System Protocol
Urban Search and Rescue Medical Response Team
Ocular Trauma

Date: 10/1/2024

Section: 12-10

Ocular Trauma

General Eye Care for Ocular Trauma

- 1 Follow the **General Pre-Hospital Care Protocol**
- 2 **Remove contact lenses or assist the patient in removal**
- 3 If HAZMAT exposure, follow **General HAZMAT Treatment protocol**
- 4 Patients will be transported per **Trauma Triage protocol**

PENETRATING TRAUMA: Penetrating foreign body, lacerated globe, or disrupted globe

1. Stabilize any penetrating foreign bodies in place.
2. Remove the foreign body **ONLY** if it is hindering the extrication of the patient from the hot zone and considered absolutely necessary
3. Patch both eyes with tape and gauze or eye patch.

SMALL NON-EMBEDDED FOREIGN BODY: Sand, sawdust, metal particles, dirt, etc.

1. Place 2 drops of Tetracaine to the affected eye(s).
2. Eyes should be flushed with 1000mL NS or Lactated Ringers minimum for each eye, unless foreign body is visibly removed.
 - a. Use commercial eye flushing system, if one is not available then use IV tubing with patient eyelids taped open to assist with flushing
 - b. Make sure to flush from nose out so that foreign body does not wash into the unaffected eye.
3. Repeat flushing as needed. Make sure to use Tetracaine drops again after 15 minutes.

LARGER, NON-EMBEDDED FOREIGN BODY: Eyelash, contact lens, wood or metal chips.

1. Place 2 drops of Tetracaine to the affected eye(s).
2. Attempt removal of object with cotton tipped applicator if easily removable and can be seen by the paramedic.
3. Patch affected eye after removal, or both eyes if unable to remove, using tape and gauze or approved eye patch.

ULTRAVIOLET RADIATION BURNS: "Welder's" burn

1. Tetracaine 2 drops to affected eye(s).
2. Patch affected eye(s) with tape and gauze or approved eye patch.

CORNEAL ABRASIONS OR FOREIGN BODY SENSATION WITHOUT VISIBLE FOREIGN BODY

1. Tetracaine 2 drops to affected eye(s).
2. Patch affected eye(s) with tape and gauze or approved eye patch.

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CHEMICAL BURNS: Acid, alkali, solvents, gasoline, detergents, etc.

1. Flush with NS/LR, sterile water or tap water for at least 15 minutes. Place 2 drops of Tetracaine to the affected eye(s).
2. Lavage with 1 Liter NS/LR or Sterile Water wide open until entire liter has been administered.
3. Reassess the patient
 - If pain diminished greatly after one liter, then decrease rate to 100 cc/hr.
 - If pain is not reduced after initial lavage, repeat with a second Liter of NS/LR or Sterile Water and reassess.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Care should be taken that the patient does not rub eyes after administration of Tetracaine as damage can occur.