

Eye Problems

Common Office Concerns and Exams



Objectives

- Describe normal and abnormal findings during an eye exam
- Describe management and treatment of abnormal findings on eye exam



History

*Chief Complaint – Pain, vision

PMH – Eye problems

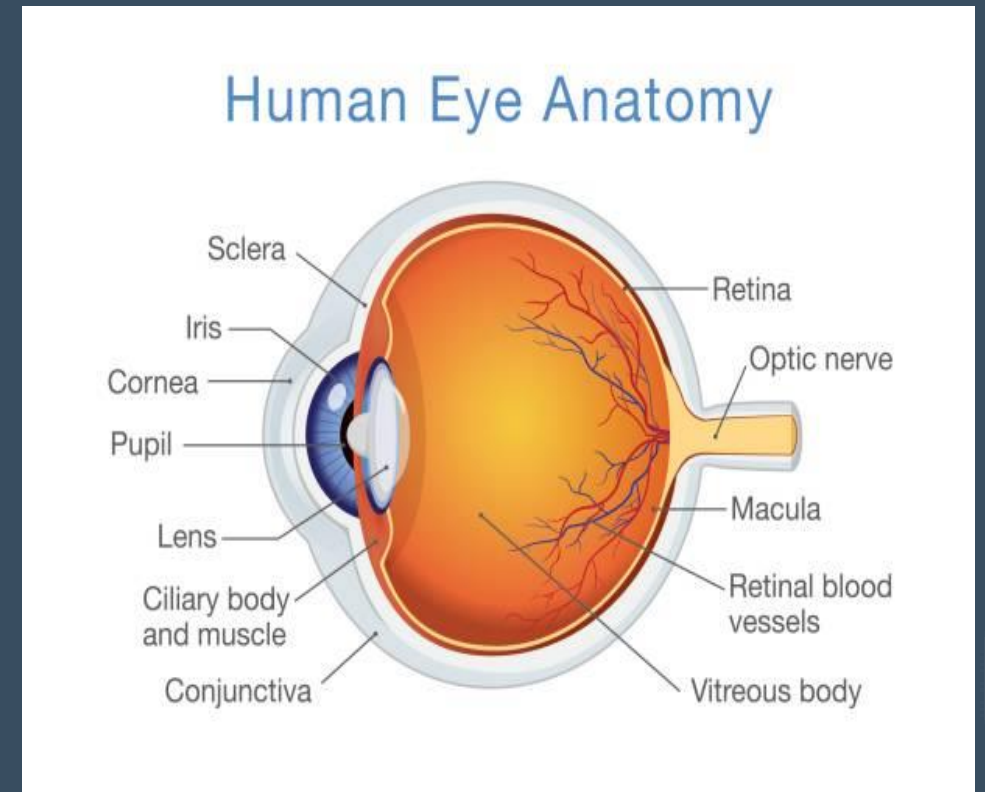
Contact Lens

Tetanus



Eye Exam

- Anterior to Posterior
 - External- lids, EOM/ROM, PERRL
- Globe – conjunctiva, cornea, iris, anterior chamber
- Fundus – optic disc, cup, retinal vessels, macula



Most important vital sign of the eye: Visual Acuity

Distance

Near

Pinhole

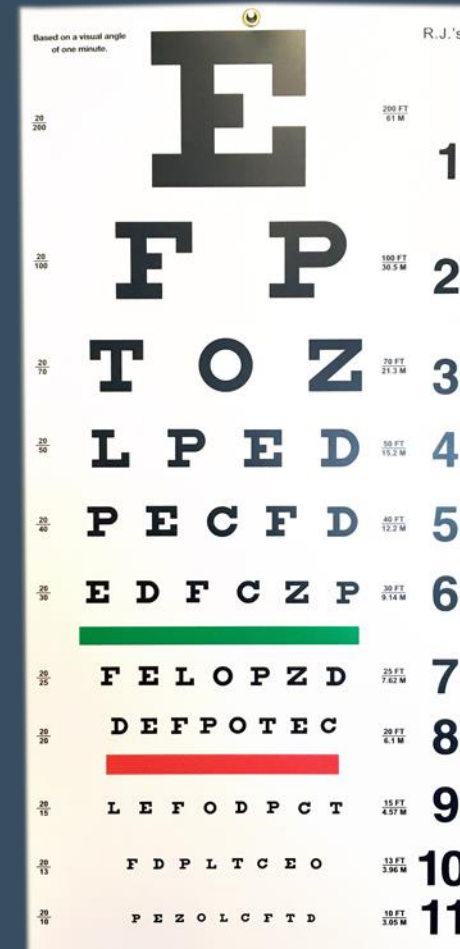
Newsprint

Counting Fingers

Hand motion

Light perception

No Light Perception



Measurement of IOP (intraocular pressure)

- Normal Pressure 10-21 mmHg
- Equipment:
 - Tonopen
 - Applanation tonometer
 - Fingers

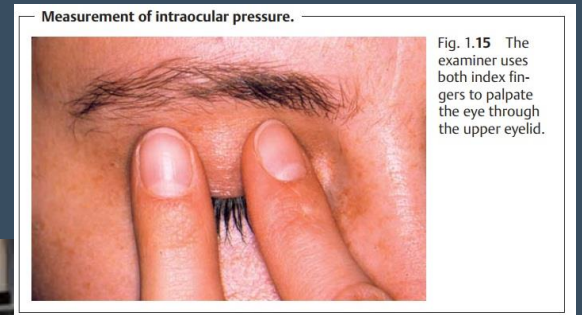


Fig. 1.15 The examiner uses both index fingers to palpate the eye through the upper eyelid.



General Principles

- Use a topical anesthetic unless allergy
- Superficial injuries are more painful
- Never send patient home with topical anesthetic – they will ask
- Never use steroid drops in eye, unless under direction of ophthalmologist



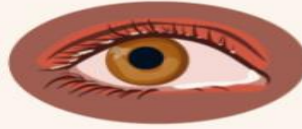
Common Causes For EYE REDNESS



Injury



Pink eye



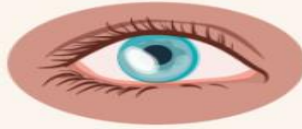
Blepharitis



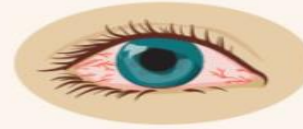
Uveitis



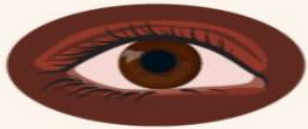
Allergies



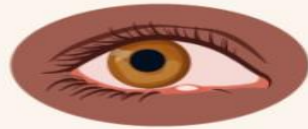
Corneal ulcers



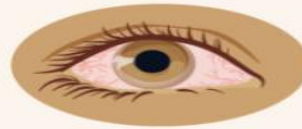
Dry eyes



Cold



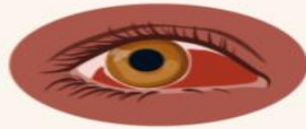
Eyelid stye



Acute glaucoma



Scleritis



Subconjunctival hemorrhage



Overuse of contact lenses

Subconjunctival hemorrhage

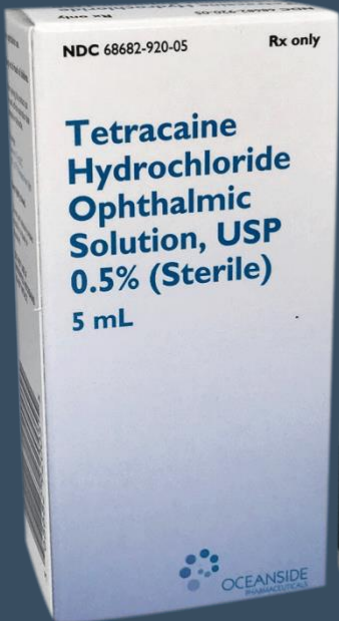
- Occurs usually after trauma, sneeze, cough, etc
- Treatment:
 - None
 - Reassurance
 - Resolve approximately in 2 weeks.

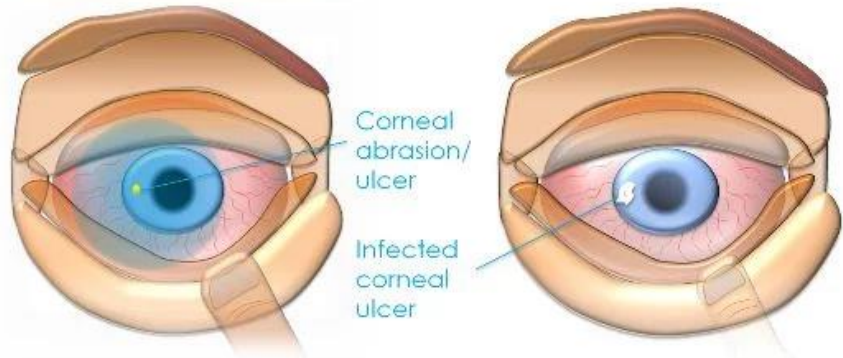


Corneal Abrasion

- Symptoms:
 - Foreign body sensation, tearing , photophobia, blepharospasm
- Dianosis:
 - Fluorescein Stain Dye uptake
 - Damaged Cells take up dye





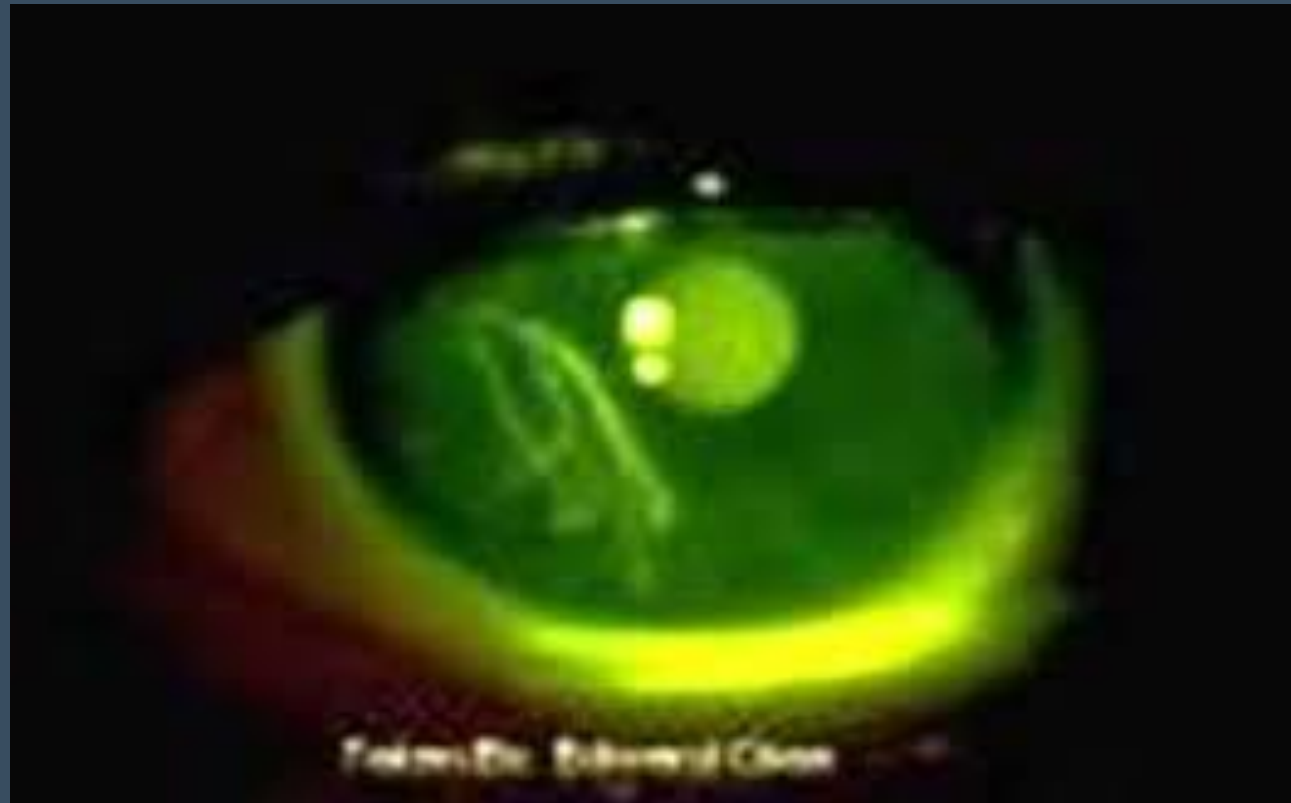


By using the slit lamp blue light and instilling fluorescein, corneal abrasions and ulcers can be easily diagnosed.

Corneal abrasions and ulcers should be treated properly. Otherwise they may become infected and cause visual impairment and severe pain. Infected corneal ulcers can lead to permanent loss of vision.

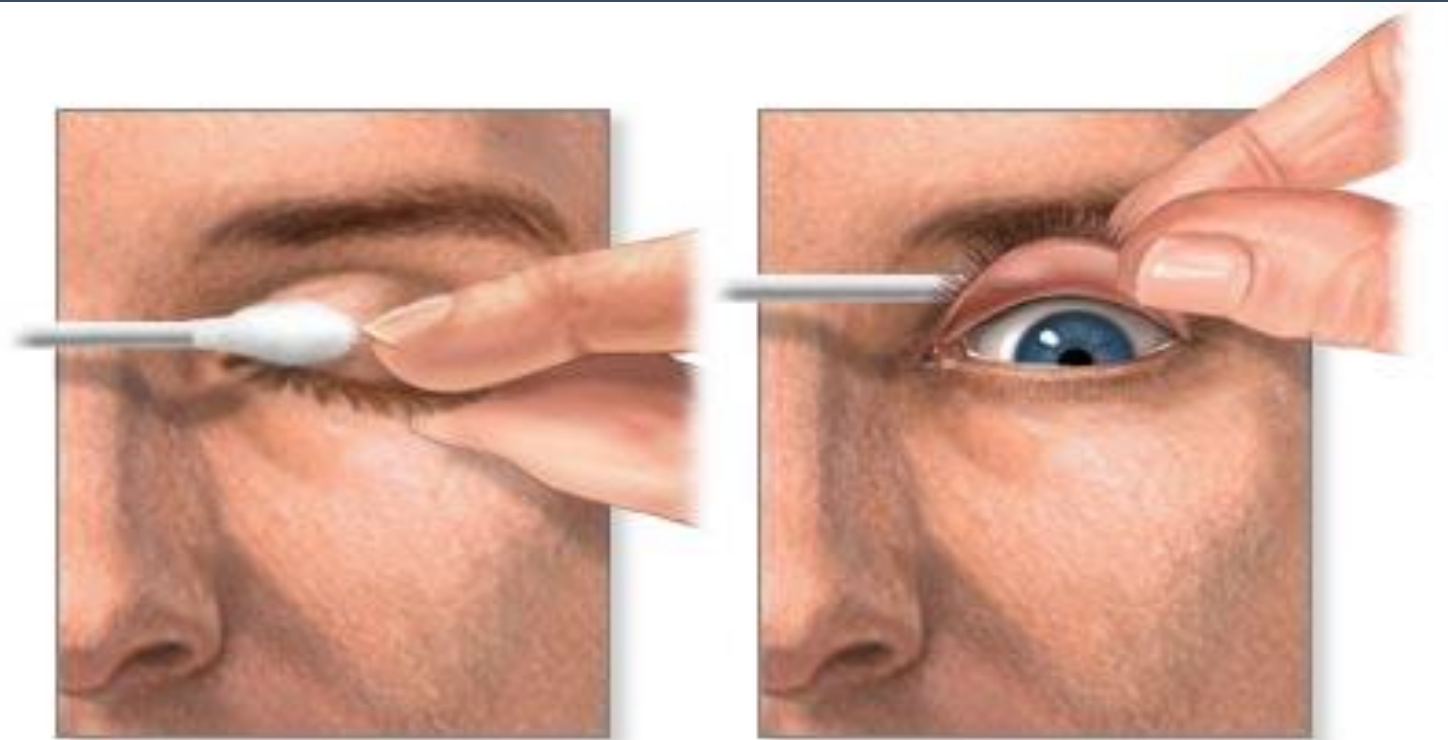


Ice Rink Sign





Upper Eyelid Eversion

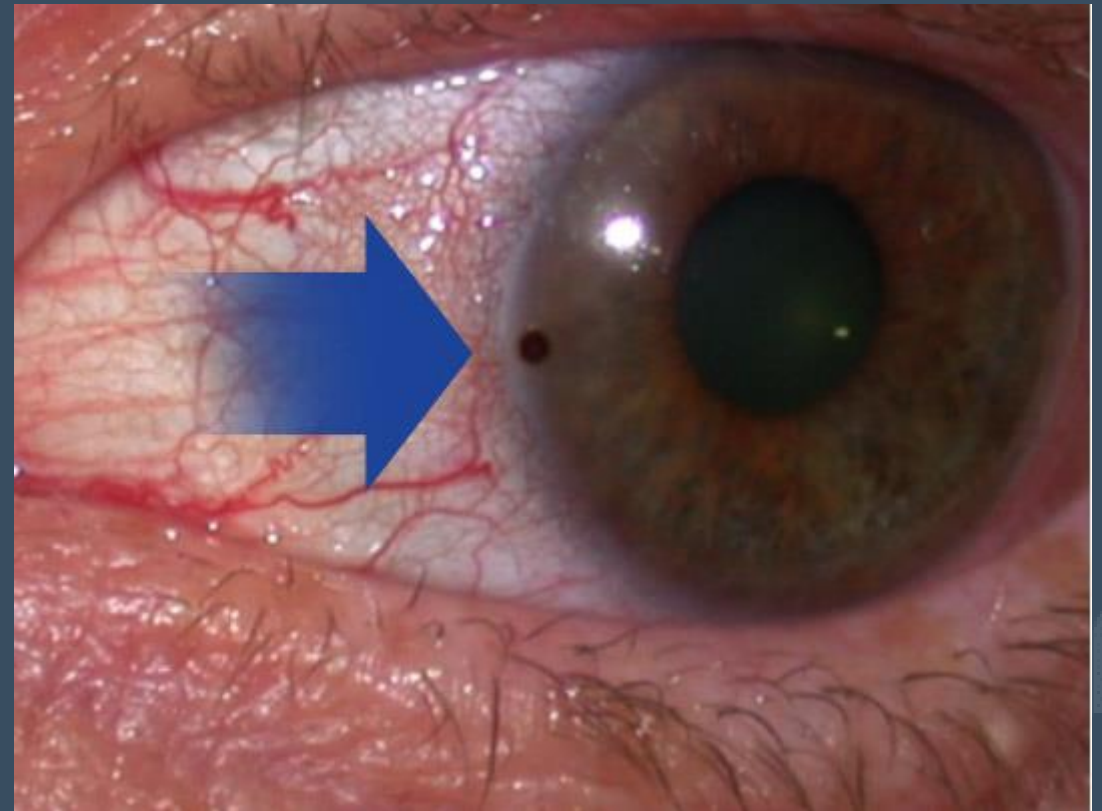


Twist cotton-tipped
swab upward

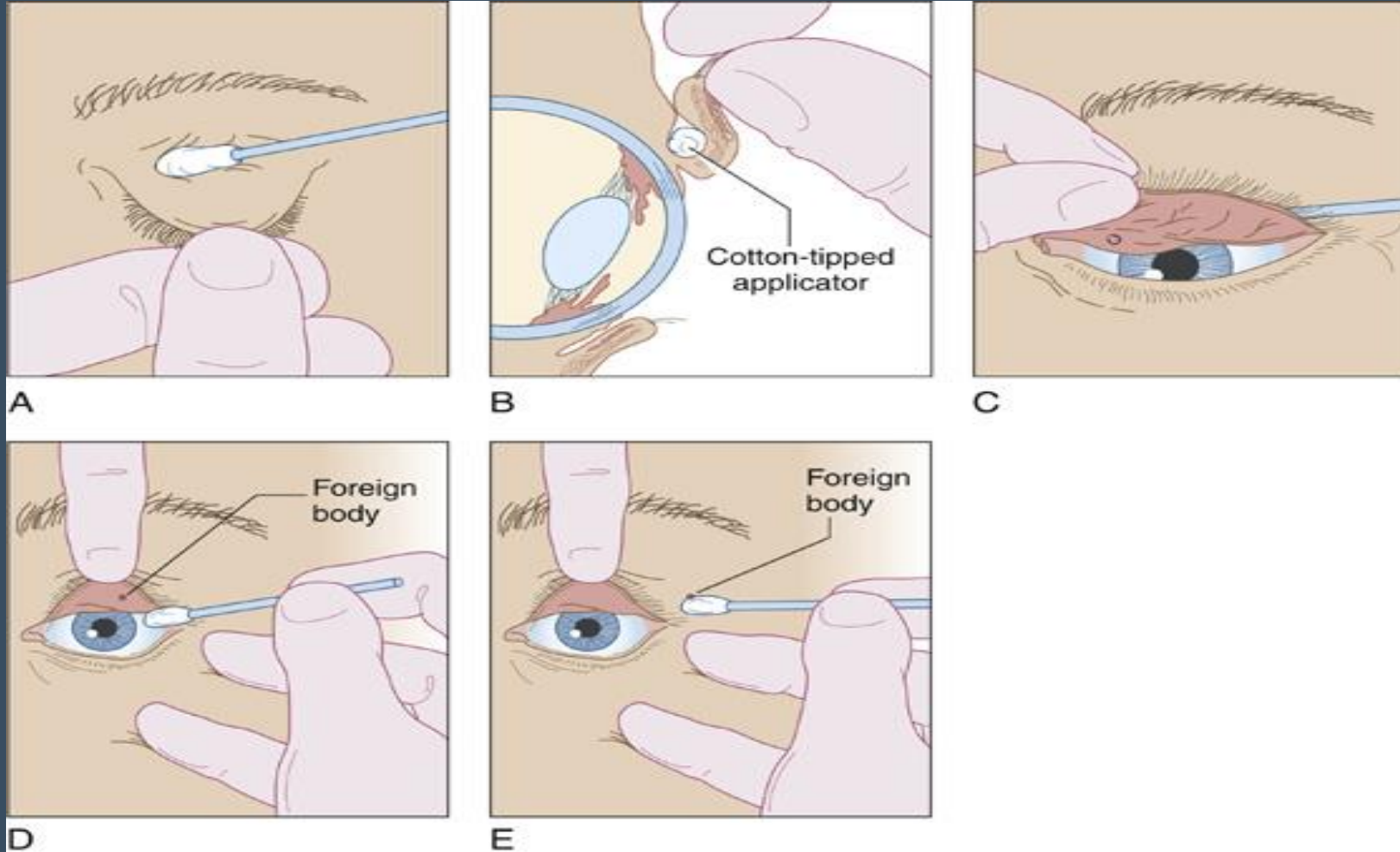
Look downward

Corneal Foreign Body

- Symptom
 - Pain
 - Foreign body Sensation
- Topical Anesthetic
- Moisten cotton swab – rolling action
- 25 G needle spud
- Rust ring



To remove foreign body – moisten cotton swab – use a rolling action



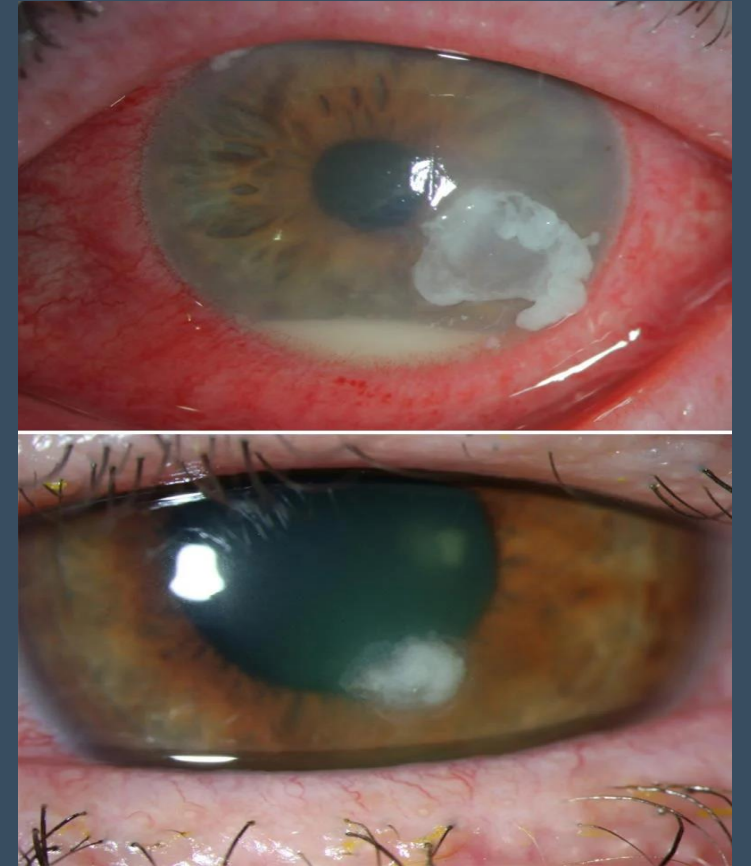
Treatment of Corneal Abrasion

- Topical Antibiotics
 - Drops – 2 gtts qid (polytrim, ciprofloxacin, tobramycin)
 - Ointment – ½ in Ribbon (erythromycin)



Corneal Ulcer

- **Open Sore on Cornea**
- **Usually severe eye pain, possible pus or eye drainage**
- **Symptoms – red, watery, bloodshot eye, white or grey spot on area of concern**
- **Considered medical Emergency – can lead to vision loss or blindness**
- **Occurance in US 30,000-75,000/year**
- **12 % lead to corneal transplants**



Risk factors for corneal ulcer

Contact lens wearer

Infection – bacterial (leading cause), viral, fungal, parasitic

Viral infection – shingles, cold sores, chickenpox

Dry eyes

Eye lids that don't close completely

Use of steroid eye drops

Injury or burn to cornea

Diabetes

Prior eye surgery

Other eye disorders



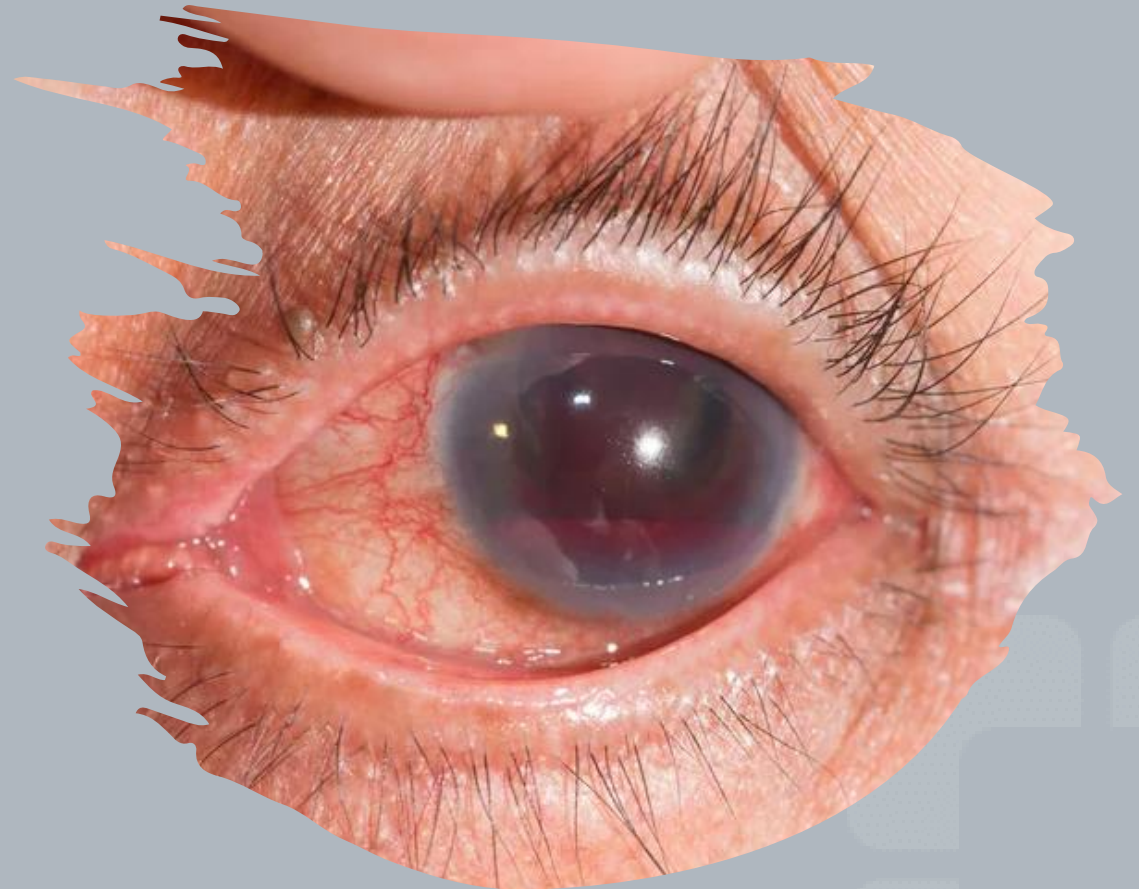
Treatment of corneal ulcer

- Depends on type of infection
- Pain management
- Close monitoring by ophthalmologist

- Further information on corneal ulcers:
- <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/22524-corneal-ulcer#:~:text=A%20corneal%20ulcer%20is%20an,it's%20considered%20a%20medical%20emergency.>

Hyphema

- Usually blunt trauma to eye
- Pain, blurred vision
- Hemorrhage into anterior chamber – suspended or layered



Treatment of hyphema

- Referral to ophthalmology
- Semi-fowler position
- Bedrest, sedation
- Cycloplegia, steroid
- No aspirin
- Frequent monitoring – 1st 5 days increase risk rebleed



Ocular Burns

- Chemical
 - Alkali
 - Acid
- Thermal
- Ultraviolet



Alkali Ocular Burn

- Tear gas, mace, lime, fertilizer, ammonia, household cleaners, airbags, plaster,
- Penetrate cornea quickly by lyse cell membrane
- Severe damage may not occur until 3-4 days post injury
- Worse than acidic
- Referral all alkaline burns



Acid Ocular Burn

- Battery acid, acetic acid, bleach, refrigerant
- Mechanic, pools, or laboratory worker
- Acid precipitates proteins that set up barriers against deeper penetration



Ocular Burn Treatment

Treat urgently

Irrigate immediately

Acid Burn 500 ml

Alkali Burn – 2000 ml

Check pH after 20 min irrigation

Analgesia

Cycloplegic and antibiotic drops

Ophthalmology Referral

Key is attempt to return to normal pH - Tears 7.1

Irrigate with LR, NS (can use tap water, but recommendations LR/NS)

LR – pH 6-7.5

NS – pH 4.5-7

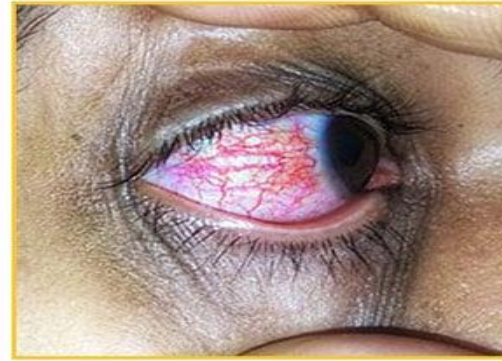
Conjunctivitis

- Bacterial
- Viral
- Allergic

Conjunctivitis



1 Bacterial



2 Viral



3 Allergic

Clinical finding	Bacterial	Viral	Allergic
Bilateral involvement	50%	25%	Mostly
Discharge	Mucopurulent	Watery	Rare
Redness	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pruritis	Rare	Rare	Yes

Bacterial or Suppurative Conjunctivitis

- Usually staph, strep or H flu
- Limbal sparing
- Purulent discharge – excess can send C & S
- Topical antibiotics

Drops vs ointment

Bacitracin-polymyxin B, erythromycin

Ciprofloxin (contact lens wearer), Tobramycin

4th Generation – Vigamox, Zymar

costly usually rx by ophthalmologist





Viral Conjunctivitis

- Watery discharge
- Recent URI
- Diffuse injection
- Pre-auricular nodes
- Warm cool compresses
- Put on antibiotic – to prevent superinfection
- Frequent handwashing



Viral Conjunctivitis Symptoms



Pink/red-tinged
eye irritation



Watery eye
discharge



Mild
pain



Sore throat
or runny nose



Mild light
sensitivity



Eye crustiness
upon waking



Swollen
eyelids

Viral Conjunctivitis

- Adenovirus cause 90% of viral conjunctivitis
- POC testing – adenodetector, 90% sensitivity, 96 % specificity
- These patients come back in and say not any better after using drops
- More common in winter
- Contagious as long as having symptoms – good handwashing

Allergic Conjunctivitis

- Seasonal – spring and fall
 - IgE seasonal – April/May - tree pollens; June/July - grass pollens; July/Aug - mold spores & weeds
 - IgE perennial – persistent- house dust mites
- Bilateral
- Rope like discharge
- Clear Nasal drainage, congestion
- Itchy watery eyes
- Boggy Conjunctiva



ALLERGIC CONJUNCTIVITIS



HEALTHY EYES

Swelling

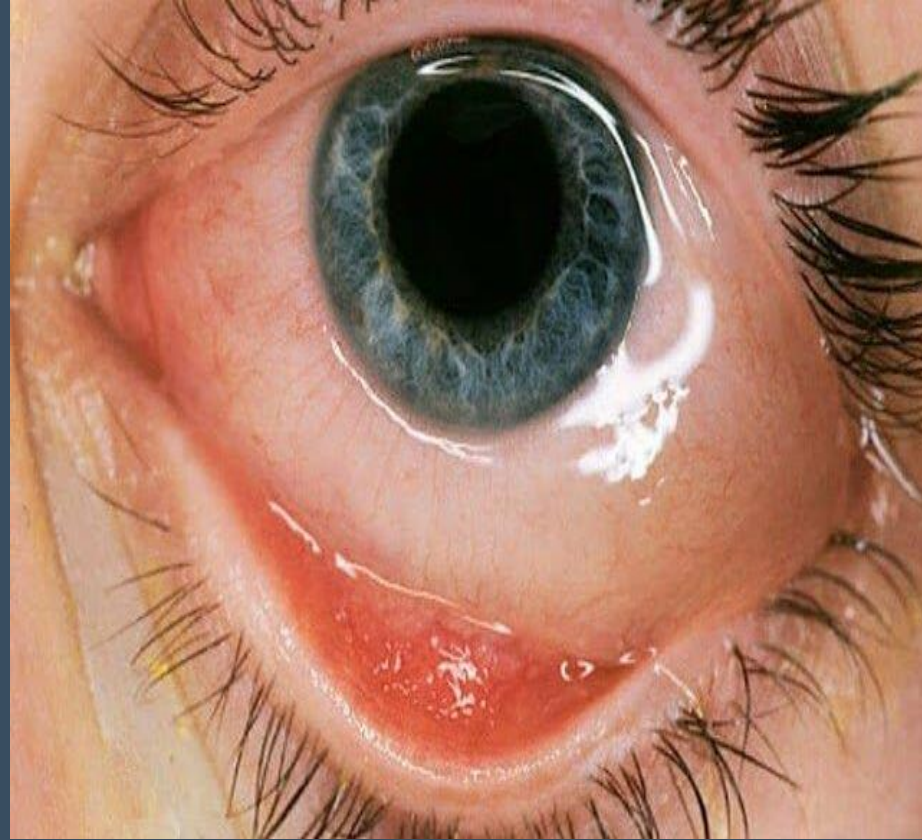


Redness of the eye

Watery
eye

Itching

ALLERGIC CONJUNCTIVITIS



Allergic Conjunctivitis

- Topical and oral antihistamine

Table 1. Topical Treatments for Allergic Conjunctivitis

<i>Drug class</i>	<i>Dosing schedule</i>	<i>Cost*</i>
Antihistamines		
Bepotastine (Bepreve)	Twice per day	NA (\$180)
Emedastine (Emadine)	Four times per day	NA (\$120)
Epinastine (Elestat)	Twice per day	\$38 (\$220)
Mast cell stabilizers		
Lodoxamide (Alomide)	Four times per day	NA (\$150)
Nedocromil (Alocril)	Twice per day	NA (\$190)
Pemirolast (Alamast)	Four times per day	NA (\$115)
Combination formulations		
Azelastine†	Up to four times per day	\$40
Ketotifen (Zaditor)†	Twice per day	NA (\$15)
Olopatadine (Patanol)	Twice per day	\$50 (\$250)

NA = not available.

*—Estimated retail cost for one month of therapy based on information obtained at <http://www.goodrx.com> (accessed April 13, 2016). Generic price listed first; brand price listed in parentheses.

†—Available over the counter without a prescription.

Table 1. Symptom-Based Treatments for Allergic Rhinitis

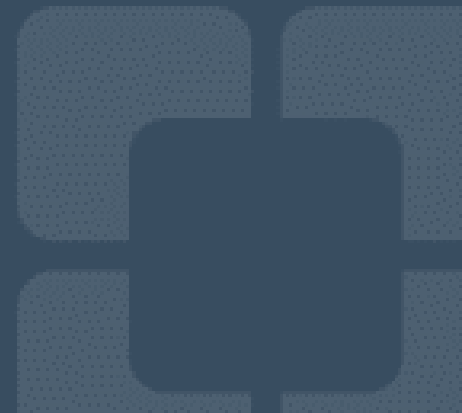
<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Symptoms</i>			
	<i>Ocular</i>	<i>Nasopharyngeal itching</i>	<i>Sneezing</i>	<i>Rhinorrhea</i>
Intranasal corticosteroids	✓	✓	✓	✓
Oral and intranasal antihistamines		✓	✓	✓
Combination intranasal corticosteroid and antihistamine	✓	✓	✓	✓
Oral and intranasal decongestants				✓
Intranasal cromolyn		✓	✓	✓
Intranasal anticholinergics				✓
Leukotriene receptor antagonists	✓		✓	✓
Immunotherapy	✓	✓	✓	✓

NOTE: Treatments are listed in approximate order of preference.

Adapted with permission from Sur DK, Scandale S. Treatment of allergic rhinitis. Am Fam Physician. 2010;81(12):1441.

Stye or Hordeolum

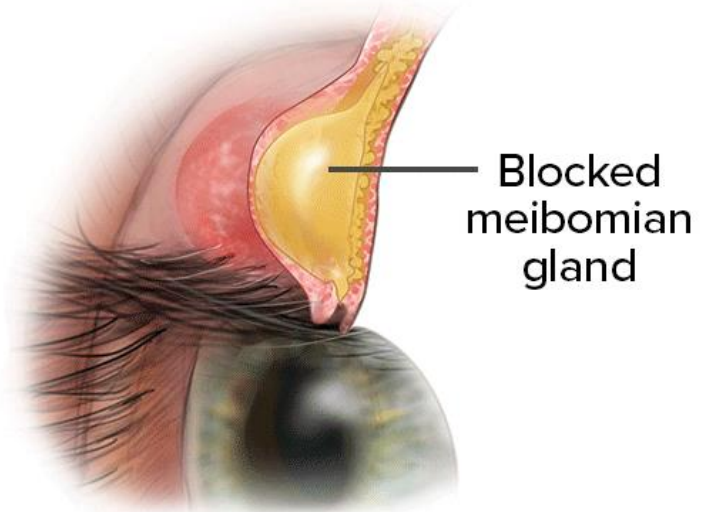
- Infection of eyelid at accessory oily gland, occlusion of oil gland, lid margin
- Internal vs External
- Usual cause staph aureus
- Treatment
 - Hot compresses
 - Antibiotic drops (tobramycin)
 - Antibiotic ointment (erythromycin)



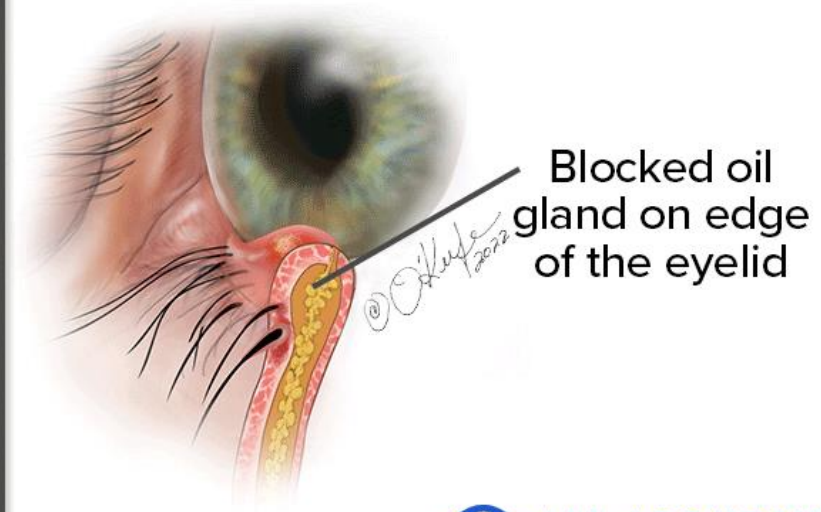
CHALAZION

VS

STYE



Blocked meibomian gland



Blocked oil gland on edge of the eyelid

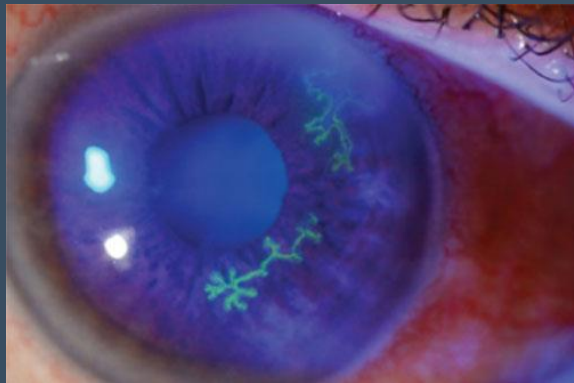
Chalazion

- Inflammation of meibomian gland under eyelid
- Hard, usually non tender
- Treatment
 - Warm/hot compresses
 - Intra-lesion corticosteroid injection by ophthalmology



Herpes simplex keratitis

- Photophobia
- Conjunctival injection
- Pain is mild
- Epithelial dendrites noted on Fluorescein stain



Herpes Zoster

- Pain in eye
- Headache
- Photophobia
- Vesicular rash in distribution of trigeminal nerve – dermatome distribution



Hutchinson's sign – herpes zoster



Herpes Treatment

- Herpes Simplex:
 - Valtrex/Famvir 500 mg tid x 7 days
 - Acyclovir 400 mg 5 x day for 7 days
 - Viroptic drops, Vira A ointment
- Herpes Zoster
 - Valtrex/Famir 1 gm po tid x 7 days
 - Acyclovir 800 mg po 5 times a day x 7-10 days
- Ophthalmology Referral

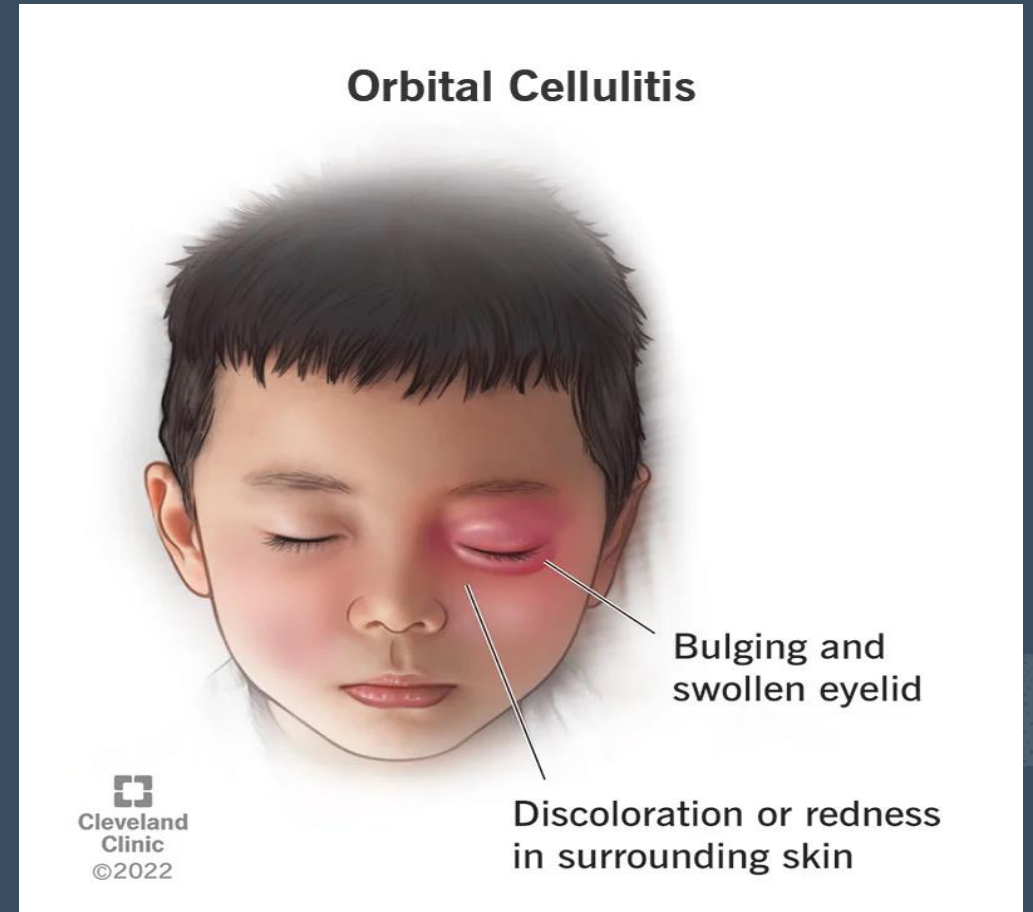
Preseptal/periorbital Cellulitis

- Swelling of eyelid and skin around eye
- No proptosis or chemosis
- No limit of EOM, or loss of vision
- Possible causes bug bites, scratches, injury or trauma around eye, sinus infection
- Usually affects children < 5
- Treatment antibiotics – augmentin, 2nd/3rd generation cephalosporin, bactrim (MRSA)



Orbital Cellulitis

- Bulging, swollen eyelid, fever, pain, exophthalmus, chemosis, globe feels hard
- Affects contents of orbit, fat, muscle
- Limited EOM – won't be able to move eyeball
- Elevated WBC, ESR
- CT scan
- IV antibiotics



Orbital Cellulitis

- Complications
 - Optic neuritis
 - Loss of vision
 - Brain abscess
 - Cavernous sinus thrombosis



Glaucoma – obstruction of aqueous at canal of Schlemm – elevated IOP

Open Angle (chronic)

- Usually no symptoms in early stages
- Early sign - loss of peripheral vision
- Later lose central vision

Closed angle (narrow/acute)

- Severe headache
- Severe eye pain
- Nausea or vomiting
- Blurred vision
- Halos or colored rings around lights
- Eye redness- diffusely injected

Acute Closed Angle Glaucoma

Red Eye

High IOP > 60 mm of Hg

Eye rock hard

Foggy Steamy Cornea

Dilated pupil



Treatment of Acute Angle Glaucoma

PATHS Treatment

- **Pilocarpine 2%** - one gtt q5-15 min x 3
- **Acetazolamide 500 mg** po or IV x 1
- **Timoptic 0.5%** one drop x 1
- **Hyperosmolar** – Mannitol 20% 1.5-2 gm IV over 30 min
- **Surgery** – laser iridectomy

- If no treatment blindness can occur in 3-5 days

Recent surgery, use of contacts, or trauma?

No

Yes

Pain?

No

Yes

Homonymous field loss?

Red?

Surgery

Contacts ↑

Trauma

No

Yes

No

Yes

- Lens changes
- Vitreous hemorrhage
- Posterior uveitis
- Acute maculopathy
- Retinal detachment (peripheral or central loss)
- Retinal artery occlusion
- Retinal vein occlusion
- Ischemic optic neuropathy

- Chiasmal
- Retrochiasmal

- Optic neuritis (eye pain)
- Papilledema (head pain, elevated intracranial pressure)

- Corneal abrasion
- Keratitis
- Corneal edema (acute glaucoma)
- Hyphema
- Anterior uveitis
- Endophthalmitis (or other panuveitis, eg, acute retinal necrosis)
- Lens dislocation (if causing acute glaucoma)
- Special optic neuropathies with orbital processes (eg, cavernous sinus disease, thyroid orbitopathy)

Consult ophthalmologist immediately

- Corneal abrasion
- Keratitis

- Corneal abrasion
- Foreign body
- Hyphema
- Anterior uveitis (traumatic iritis)
- Lens dislocation
- Vitreous hemorrhage
- Acute maculopathy
- Traumatic optic neuropathy
- Head injury (chiasmal/retrochiasmal)
- Ruptured globe

<https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/17657-chalazion>

<https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/24499-orbital-cellulitis>

<https://www.uptodate.com/contents/the-red-eye-evaluation.2023>

<https://www.uptodate.com/contents/corneal-abrasions-and-corneal-foreign-bodies-management>

References