## Eye Emergencies

### EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDER (EMR) / EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT) / ADVANCED EMT (AEMT) / INTERMEDIATE / PARAMEDIC

1. **General Eye Care – Special Considerations:**
   - Assess visual acuity
   - Assess pain scale 0 – 10.
   - Assess cornea, conjunctiva, and sclera for signs of injury.
   - Discourage patient from sneezing, coughing, straining, or bending at waist.
   - Vomiting precautions

### ADVANCED EMT (AEMT) / INTERMEDIATE / PARAMEDIC

2. If not a penetrating eye injury, may give Nitrous Oxide for Pain Control, if Nitrous Oxide available and trained in its use (see Nitrous Oxide protocol).

### INTERMEDIATE / PARAMEDIC

4. Consider Nausea medications.

### PARAMEDIC

5. If available: 0.5% Tetracaine or Proparacaine 1-2 drops each affected eye if not an open globe injury. May repeat as needed for pain control.

### Chemical Splash/Burn:

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Thoroughly and continuously irrigate affected eye(s) using copious amounts of saline instilled through IV tubing or any other means available. Start irrigation as soon as possible and continue while enroute to the hospital.

### Corneal Abrasions:

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDER (EMR) / EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT) / ADVANCED EMT (AEMT) / INTERMEDIATE / PARAMEDIC**

Observe for profuse tearing, severe pain, redness, and spasm of eyelid.
**Penetrating Injury/Ruptured Globe:** Observe for signs of penetration: peaked pupil, excessive edema of conjunctiva (chemosis), subconjunctival hemorrhage, blood in anterior chamber (hyphema) or foreign body/impaled object.

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<tr>
<th><strong>EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDER (EMR) / EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT) / ADVANCED EMT (AEMT) / INTERMEDIATE / PARAMEDIC</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Do not remove impaled objects; do not irrigate eye.</td>
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<td>2. Avoid all pressure on injured eye. Cover with metal or plastic protective patch or paper cup. May patch injured eye or both eyes depending on patient's ability to tolerate bilateral patches.</td>
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<td>3. Elevate head of stretcher to 45-degree angle.</td>
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<td>4. Consider Pain Management per Protocol</td>
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<td>5. Give anti-nausea medications, even if not nauseated. See Nausea protocol.</td>
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