

Penetrating eye injury

A penetrating eye injury is when the eye is pierced by a sharp or flying object. After any penetrating eye injury, a serious infection may develop that can lead to permanent loss of vision. Modern microsurgical techniques and new antibiotics improve outcome following eye surgery.

Pain control

- Give paracetamol for pain if required - see manufacturer's instructions.
- Next dose can be given at _____.

Directions

- Keep eye patch and/or eye shield in place as directed by your eye doctor.
- Keep your child's head elevated as much as possible when lying down.
- Give eye drops as per discharge instructions.
- Seek immediate advice from your eye doctor if your child has:
 - Worsening Vision
 - Increasing Pain
 - 'Flashes' (flashes of light)
 - 'Floaters' (objects blurring your child's vision)
- If the unaffected eye develops any of these symptoms seek medical advice as this may be an inflammatory reaction.

Correct instillation of eye drops

- Always wash hands before and after administration of eye drops.
- Use a clean tissue and cooled, boiled water to clean eyelid prior to giving the eye drops.
- Wipe the tissue from the inner to the outer aspect of the eye once only.
- Repeat with another clean tissue, if necessary, until the eyelid is clean.
- If your child is able to keep his/her eye open:
 - Tilt their head back and gently pull the lower lid down to form a pouch.
 - Hold the eye drop bottle directly above the eye and get your child to look up.
 - Instill a drop into their eye.
 - Get your child to blink a few times to spread the medication over the eyeball.
- If your child is unable to keep his/her eye open:
 - Instill the eye drop in the inner aspect of the eye (corner of the eye nearest to the nose).
- **If more than one (1) eye drop is required please wait two (2) to three (3) minutes before the next eye drop is given.**
- Do not let the tip of the bottle touch the eye or any other surface to avoid contamination.



Daily activity

- No bathing or showering for one (1) week.
- No excessive activity, including sports, for approximately two (2) weeks, unless advised otherwise by your treating doctor.
- No school for two (2) weeks, unless otherwise instructed by your treating doctor.
- No swimming for two (2) weeks, unless otherwise instructed by your treating doctor.

Review

Follow-up appointment will be arranged prior to discharge. It is essential for you to attend as complications may occur without signs or symptoms being obviously present, or may occur without warning.

Contact details

If you have any concerns after discharge please phone the hospital on 6456 2222 and ask to be transferred to Ward ____, or alternatively call your GP.

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.

Child and Adolescent Health Service

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Government of **Western Australia**
Child and Adolescent Health Service

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