

# Acute Eye Injuries

Protocol

Douglas County KS EMS System

November 2022

**Referenced Procedures:** None

## **Goals for Patient Care:**

- Patient comfort during transport
- Patient clinical stability

## **Medications:**

### ADULT Medications:

- **Fentanyl:** 25-100mcg IV/IO Slow Push, IM/IN  
(Titrate, may repeat 5-10 min)  
(*Total Max. dose 400mcg*)
- **Tetracaine:** 2 drops in the affected eye repeat after 20 minutes as needed
- **Normal Saline:** 500mL per eye flushed through Morgan Lens

### PEDIATRIC Medications: Refer to HandTevy

- **Fentanyl:** 1 mcg/kg, up to 100mcg. IV/IO Slow Push, IM/IN  
(Titrate, may repeat 5-10 min)  
(*Total Max. dose 400mcg*)
- **Tetracaine:** 1-2 drops in affected eye repeat after 20 min as needed  
*Contraindicated less than 1*
- **Normal Saline:** 20 ml/kg per eye flushed through Morgan lens

## **FOR FOREIGN SUBSTANCE TO THE EYES THAT IS NON-PENETRATING:**

- Administer Tetracaine
  - DO NOT allow the patient to rub their eyes after they have been anesthetized
- Irrigate affected eyes using Morgan lens after eye has been anesthetized, irrigate with 500mL NS per eye

## **FOR FOREIGN SUBSTANCE TO THE EYES THAT IS PENETRATING**

- Secure object if unstable. Do not remove the object
- Don't administer any ocular medications (Tetracaine, NS flush via Morgan Lens)
- Consider IV analgesia

## **FOR CHEMICAL BURNS TO THE EYES**

- Each affected eye should be irrigated using a minimum of 500mL NS.
- ALKALINE burns should receive continuous irrigation throughout transport

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## **"WELDER'S" OR "SUN LAMP" BURNS**

- Patients exposed to ultraviolet light may suffer from corneal burns which are extremely painful
- Administer Tetracaine
- Consider IV access and IV analgesia

## **Considerations**

Considerations for crews on scene prior to ambulance arrival

- DO NOT REMOVE PENETRATING OBJECT
  - Limit movement of eye/object
- For foreign body that is not penetrating, flush eye if able
- Prevent patient from rubbing eyes
  - Cover with wet cloth, etc.
- Keep patient calm
- If chemical or foreign substance related, determine what chemical or substance