

EYE IRRIGATION

1. Level: EMT, AEMT, Paramedic, RN
2. Purpose: Immediate irrigate of the eye to remove toxic materials or particles.
3. Contraindications:
 - 3.1. Evidence of/or penetrating/impalement injury to the eye or surrounding tissues
4. Complications:
 - 4.1. Burning sensation or blurred vision
5. Procedure:
 - 5.1. Inspect the IV solution (normal saline) for expiration date, cloudiness, discoloration, leaks, or the presence of particles.
 - 5.2. Connect IV tubing to the solution in a sterile manner then to the nasal cannula.
 - 5.3. Fill the drip chamber half full and then flush the tubing bleeding all air bubbles from the line and cannula.
 - 5.4. Have the patient lay supine or semi-fowler
 - 5.5. Place towels or blankets next to patient's head for run-off
 - 5.6. Place the nasal prongs on each side of the bridge of the nose, may be taped to hold in place.
 - 5.7. Gently retract both upper and lower eyelids with fingers. (Retracting upper and lower eyelids separately is acceptable if this is all the patient can tolerate.)
 - 5.8. Open the clamp on the tubing to begin flow of saline solution. Adjust flow as needed to obtain good flush.
 - 5.9. Instruct the patient to alternate looking up, down, and from side to side during flushing
 - 5.10. Flushing times:
 - 5.10.1. Chemical burns – minimum of 15 minutes
 - 5.10.2. Foreign body – until foreign body is removed or maximum of 15 minutes.
6. Documentation: Document all changes on the electronic Patient Care Report.