Corneal Foreign Body
(Foreign Body in Eye)

A corneal foreign body is an injury from material in your eye. This foreign body became stuck in *(lodged*) in the clear layer that covers the front part of the eye. Specks of metal, sand or wood commonly cause this injury. Using a local anesthetic, your caregiver removed the foreign body in your cornea. This local anesthetic is a medication that makes the cornea numb. Your eye will be painful when the local anesthetic wears off. Blinking the eye increases pain, so sometimes a patch is applied to eliminate this. The more you rest your "good eye", the better both eyes will feel.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- The use of eye patches is not universal and their use varies from state to state and from caregiver to caregiver. If eye patch was applied:
  - Keep your eye patch on until your follow-up appointment.
  - Do NOT remove the patch unless instructed to do so to instill medications; then replace patch and re-tape it as it was before. Follow the same procedure if the patch becomes loose.
  - **WARNING:** Do not drive or operate machinery while your eye is patched. Your ability to judge distances is impaired.
- If no eye patch was applied:
  - Keep your eye closed as much as possible. Do not rub your eye.
  - Wear dark glasses for the next three days, or as directed, to protect your eyes from bright light.
  - Do not wear contact lenses until your caregiver gives the OK.
  - Wear protective eye covering if your job or hobby involves the risk of eye injury. This is especially important when working with high speed tools.
- Only take over-the-counter or prescription medicines for pain, discomfort, or fever as directed by your caregiver.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- Pain increases in your eye or your vision changes.
- You have problems with your eye patch.
- The injury to your eye appears to be getting larger.
- You develop any kind of discharge from the injured eye.
- Swelling and/or soreness *(inflammation*) develops around the affected eye.
- An oral temperature above 102° F (38.9° C) develops, or as your caregiver suggests.

MAKE SURE YOU:

- Understand these instructions.
- Will watch your condition.
- Will get help right away if you are not doing well or get worse.

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