Chemical Conjunctivitis

Chemical conjunctivitis is an irritation of the underside of the eyelid and the white part of the eye. Conjunctivitis can be caused by infection, allergy or chemical irritation. In your case it has been caused by a chemical irritation of the eye. Symptoms almost always include: tearing, light sensitivity, gritty feeling (*sensation*) in the eyes, swelling of your eyelids, and often severe pain. In spite of the severe pain, this is self-limited and will improve within 24 hours.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- To ease discomfort apply a cool, clean wash cloth to your eye for 10 to 20 minutes, 3 to 4 times per day.
- Do not rub your eyes.
- Gently wipe away any discharge from the eyes with moistened tissues.
- Wash your hands often with soap and use paper towels to dry.
- Sunglasses may be helpful if light bothers your eyes.
- Do not use eye make-up.
- Do not use contact lenses until the irritation is gone.
- Do not operate machinery or drive if your vision is blurred.
- Take medications as directed by your caregiver. Artificial tears may ease discomfort.
- Avoid the chemical or surroundings which caused the problem. Always use eye protection as necessary.

SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF:

- The eye is still pink (*inflamed*) 3 days after beginning treatment.
- Pain in the eye increases.
- An oral temperature above 102° F (38.9° C) develops, or as your caregiver suggests.
- You develop facial pain.
- You have any problems that may be related to the medicine you are taking.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- The redness is spreading.
- Your vision becomes blurred.
- You develop severe eye pain.

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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