Conjunctival Foreign Body

A small foreign body was removed from your eye. At this time there does not appear to be damage to your eye. Specks of metal, sand, or wood commonly cause this injury. It often occurs during windy weather and when working with power tools. Sometimes a medication like *Novocain* (a local anesthetic), is used to remove a foreign body. This local anesthetic is a medication that makes the tissues around the eye numb. Your eye may be uncomfortable when the local anesthetic wears off. This is especially true if the cornea was scratched. The cornea is the very sensitive clear membrane over the front of the eye. Blinking the eye may increase the pain. Sometimes a patch is applied for comfort. The more you rest your "good eye", the better both eyes will feel.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

The use of eye patches 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 or as directed.
- Do NOT remove the patch unless instructed to do so to put in medications; 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 if there is discomfort.
- Do not rub your eye.
- Wear dark glasses to protect your eyes from bright light.
- Do not wear contact lenses until instructed to do so.
- 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.
- It is important for you to monitor your return to good health. Look at your eye periodically to determine if there is any change in your condition.

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 seems to be getting worse. In particular if the area around the site of the foreign body is changing color or seems to be getting larger.
- You develop any kind of discharge from the injured eye, or there is fluid leaking from the eye.
- Swelling and/or soreness *(inflammation*) develops around the affected eye.
- An oral temperature above 102º F (38.9º C) develops or as instructed.

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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