# Ocular Trauma: Triage & Treatment

COPE ID # 21554-SD Ernest L. Bowling, O.D., M.S., F.A.A.O., Dipl. Private Optometric Practice Gadsden, AL

Chief Optometric Editor Optometry Times magazine



Why Should We Care?	
U.S. Eye Injury Registry:	
<ul> <li>2.4 million eye injuries yearly in th</li> <li>Leading cause of monocular blindn</li> <li>Second leading cause of visual impairment (cataract 1<sup>st</sup>)</li> <li>One third of eye injuries in children permanent visual deficit</li> </ul>	ie U.S. iess n →
USEIR, September, 2008	7

#### Speaker Disclosures

- Alcon Speakers Bureau
- o InSpire Speakers Bureau
- $\circ$  Bausch & Lomb Speakers Bureau
- Clinical Investigator, Bausch & Lomb

#### Significance

- $\circ$  According to Gallup polls, eye injury is the most feared disability
- $\circ$  Approx. 75% of information from the outside world comes from our eyes
- $\circ$  Half of the human cortex is dedicated to vision
- Prevention is **much** more effective than treatment









US Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 5, 2008

#### Cornea

 Small irregularities can result in significant loss of vision function
 Cornea is involved in >50% of all serious ocular trauma reported in the U.S.
 83% corneal injuries involve males

52% corneal injuries involve full-

thickness lacerations

# Telephone Triage

 Your front office staff MUST be able to "triage" complaints
 Documentation !





# CATAGORIES

- True Ocular Emergencies • Requires care in minutes to hours
- Acute Urgencies
- Requires care within 6-12 hours same day
   Subacute Urgencies
- Requires care within 12-24 hours
- o ASAP
- Care within 24 hours





### Acute Urgencies

- Requires care within 6-12 hours same day
- o AACG
- o Blunt ocular trauma with or without vision loss o Severe corneal pain associated with

CL wear



#### **Retinal Detachment** o Macula on or off? o If macula on, stat refer to retinal surgeon Instruct patient NPO If macula off How long has the macula been off? Good outcome for good VA is off <24 h</li>

- Macula off longer than 1 week no real sense of urgency
  Refer within 24 48 hours









#### ASAP

o Painful lesion o Insidious painful eye New onset diplopia

#### History

- How did the injury occur? o What are the circumstances surrounding the injury?
  - o Has the injured eye had any prior eye surgery?





# BETTS Terminology

• **Rupture**: Full-thickness wound of eyewall, caused by *blunt* object

 eyewall yields at its weakest point to momentary increase in IOP, "insideout" mechanism



#### Birmingham EyeTrauma Terminology System (BETTS)

- Eyewall: Sclera and cornea
- Closed globe injury: No full-thickness wound of eyewall
  - Lamellar laceration: Partial-thickness wound of eyewall, created by a sharp object
  - Contusion: tissue damage created by energy of blunt force trauma
  - Superficial foreign body













Timing	Condition
Absolute	Chemical injury (alkali > acid)
emergencies	ECH
	Appearance of intraocular gas bubble*
	Orbital abscess
	Vision loss due to expanding orbital
	hemorrhage
Orgent	Figh-risk IOFB
24 bours	KOEPS
	Open wounds requiring surgical closure
Within a few	Medically uncontrollable IOP elevation in
days (24 to	the presence of hyphema
72 hours	Medically uncontrollable IOP elevation as
preteriout	Rotinal detachment
	Thick submacular hemorrhage
Within 2	IOFB <sup>1</sup>
weeks	Secondary reconstruction if retina is detached
	Media onacity in the ambleopic are group



![](_page_4_Figure_6.jpeg)

![](_page_4_Figure_7.jpeg)

![](_page_4_Picture_8.jpeg)

![](_page_5_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_5_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_5_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_5_Picture_3.jpeg)

# **Recurrent Corneal Erosion**

- 7-8% of corneal abrasions result in RCE
- RCE represents abnormal adhesion in the base of the epithelial defect
- Especially common if injury involves:
   Fingernail
   Paper cut
- Classic AM syndrome

#### **Corneal Foreign Bodies**

- Represent 40% of eye injuries
- Strong association with high-risk activities without safety Rx – hammering, welding, grinding
- R/O any intraocular material
   Remove superficial FR with FR and
- Remove superficial FB with FB spud or 30gauge needle, cycloplege, topical Ab and NSAID

53

54

![](_page_5_Picture_14.jpeg)

![](_page_5_Picture_15.jpeg)

![](_page_5_Picture_16.jpeg)

![](_page_5_Picture_17.jpeg)

•Symptoms are frequently out of proportion to severity of injury

- Determine depth with thin optic section, esp. for transparent FB glass or plastic . R/O self-sealing lacerations
- To ensure no corneal perforation/IOFB: Seidel's, Gonioscopy, DFE
- Deep stromal FB: Leave in place if inert, small, non-toxic/antigenic, non-vegetative

![](_page_6_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_6_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_6_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_6_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_6_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_6_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_6_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_7_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_7_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_7_Picture_2.jpeg)

#### **Corneal Lacerations**

- Determine partial or full-thickness
- Check IOP, if possible
- If cannot check IOP, evaluate AC depth compared to fellow eye

65

![](_page_7_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_7_Picture_8.jpeg)

![](_page_7_Figure_9.jpeg)

#### Case #1

 32 year-old mechanic
 Fan belt broke and hit OD 15 min. ago (no safety glasses)
 VA OD 20/200 PHNI, OS 20/20
 SLE: Corneal, scleral and lid lacerations, distorted pupil OD

![](_page_8_Picture_2.jpeg)

Presence or absence of APD OD

![](_page_8_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_8_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_8_Picture_6.jpeg)

# Scleral and Corneoscleral Injuries

- Role of the O.D.:
- Recognize the full extent of injuryIf questionable, treat as open globe
- If appropriate, exclude or confirm presence of IOFB
- Institute medical therapy if indicated prior to surgical evaluation

![](_page_8_Picture_12.jpeg)

![](_page_8_Picture_13.jpeg)

#### Open Globe Injury

- Signs that suggest the presence, or possibility of open globe trauma include:
- Obvious open wound
- Collapsed or severely distorted eye
   Prolapsed uveal tissue
- Peaked pupil
- SCH with shallowing, or deepening of the AC
- Ocular hypotony

![](_page_8_Picture_21.jpeg)

#### Global Rupture (Open Globe Injury)

o Protect the eye with a rigid cover (not a patch!)

o Do not instill any eye medications before evaluation by oculo-plastic specialist

 Oculo-plastic specialist will order imaging studies

• X-ray with Caldwell, Waters and Lateral views

CT scan with axial, coronal and sagittal views

![](_page_9_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_9_Figure_7.jpeg)

![](_page_9_Picture_8.jpeg)

![](_page_9_Picture_9.jpeg)

![](_page_9_Picture_10.jpeg)

![](_page_9_Figure_11.jpeg)

![](_page_10_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_10_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_10_Figure_2.jpeg)

#### Sub-Conjunctival Hemorrhages

- SCH w/ superficial conj abrasion, good VA
   antibiotics and analgesics □ SCH w/ superficial conj *laceration*, good VA □ reorganization of conj, possible suture with topical antibiotic Hop contained antibiotic

   Suspect posterior globe rupture if conjunctival
   abrasion/laceration accompanied by:
   lid swelling
   extensive SCH ("jelly roll")
   deepened AC
   poor VA
   APD
   22

#### Mechanisms of Blunt Ocular Trauma

- Coup
  Initial force produced at point of impact
- Contracoup
   Shock wave transmission through ocular structures
- Equatorial expansion
   Equator expands and distorts normal ocular architecture
- Global repositioning
   Compression and indentation at moment of impact, damaging internal ocular structures

#### Traumatic Iritis

- o Inflammatory reaction of the iris or CB Commonly seen after blunt trauma
- o Pain, photophobia, epiphora
- May not present until 2-3 days posttrauma

![](_page_10_Picture_18.jpeg)

![](_page_10_Picture_19.jpeg)

![](_page_10_Picture_20.jpeg)

![](_page_11_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_11_Picture_1.jpeg)

Case # 3	
<ul> <li>12-year-old boy gets paintball gun for Christmas</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Parents ignore Dr. Mason's article in Southern Medical Journal and allow Junior to play war games in wooded area behind their home</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Moderate discomfort, photophobia OS</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Entering unaided acuities:</li> <li>OD 20/20</li> <li>OS 20/100 PHNI</li> </ul>	
• SLE OS reveals	

![](_page_11_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_11_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_11_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_11_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_12_Picture_0.jpeg)

# Management Guidelines -

# Fraumatic Hyphema

- Limited activity or bedrest w/ bathroom privileges
- Elevate head 30 degrees. Fox shield r-t-c ! Atropine 1% t.i.d., or b.i.d. if microhyphema
- No ASA or NSAIDs; mild analgesics only (acetaminophen). No sedatives !
- (acctainingpren). No sedatives ! o If traumatic iritis develops (usu. 2-3 days after trauma), add prednisolone acetate 1% 4-8x daily o For elevated IOP: beta blocker 1st; then alpha agonist. Avoid prostaglandin analogs & miotics 112

![](_page_12_Figure_8.jpeg)

![](_page_12_Picture_9.jpeg)

![](_page_12_Figure_10.jpeg)

113

Perform gonioscopy one month post-trauma/rebleed

Treat increased IOP as indicated

![](_page_12_Figure_13.jpeg)

![](_page_12_Picture_14.jpeg)

![](_page_13_Picture_0.jpeg)

#### Pathophysiology of Chemical Eye Injury

- Both alkalines & acids cause ocular surface epithelial cells to die upon contact Retained particulate matter in superior fornix can cause continued exposure
- Penetration of alkalines and acids into corneal stroma result in keratocyte death & loss of stromal clarity
- Hydration of collagen fibrils lead to thickening of TM and increase in IOP
- Time of penetration into AC varies (immediate for ammonia) & can result in secondary glaucoma, cataract, CB damage, hypotony, and phthisis bulbi with prolonged pH >11.5 121

![](_page_13_Figure_7.jpeg)

![](_page_13_Picture_8.jpeg)

#### Pathophysiology of Chemical Eye Injury

- Complete corneal epithelial injury requires epithelium from the limbus, where stem cells of corneal epithelium reside
- The recovery of an intact and phenotypically normal corneal epithelium is the most important determinant of a favorable outcome following chemical eye injury
- With extensive corneal and limbal epithelial injury, the surrounding conjunctival epithelium provides the only source of epithelial regeneration

122

![](_page_13_Picture_13.jpeg)

![](_page_13_Picture_14.jpeg)

![](_page_14_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_14_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_14_Picture_2.jpeg)

Case RC – s/p 1 month chemical burn OS

![](_page_14_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_14_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_14_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_14_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_14_Picture_8.jpeg)

![](_page_14_Picture_9.jpeg)

![](_page_15_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_15_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_15_Picture_2.jpeg)

#### Management of Acid Eye Injuries

- Prompt and copious irrigation
- minimize duration of contact b/w chemical & eye in order to protect limbal stem cells
- Irrigate for 15-30 min; evert upper lid, irrigate fornices
- Check pH after irrigation; continue until pH 7.0
- Remove remnants of agents. double evert
- Debride necrotic corneal and conjunctival epithelium
- Administer topical & oral Ab's/steroids, cycloplegic, BCL/patch (relief) and indicated glaucoma agents

![](_page_15_Figure_11.jpeg)

![](_page_15_Picture_12.jpeg)

![](_page_15_Picture_13.jpeg)

![](_page_16_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_16_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_16_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_16_Picture_3.jpeg)

#### Tissue Prolapse

- Defined as extrusion of intraocular content outside its normal compartment
- $\circ$  Classified as intrabulbar or extrabulbar
- Intraocular tissue prolapse should be suspected in all open globe injuries

149

![](_page_16_Figure_8.jpeg)

![](_page_16_Picture_9.jpeg)

#### Lens Injury

Blunt trauma can break zonules

If 25% or more zonules are broken, the lens produces iridodonesis (trembling of the iris)

 If enough zonules are disrupted, the lens may: dislocate into the AC
 occlude pupillary space (pupillary block glaucoma)
 subluxate into PC
 be expulsed altogether

154

Contusion injuries can cause immediate traumatic cataracts

![](_page_17_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_17_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_17_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_17_Picture_8.jpeg)

![](_page_17_Picture_9.jpeg)

![](_page_17_Picture_10.jpeg)

![](_page_17_Picture_11.jpeg)

![](_page_17_Picture_12.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Picture_2.jpeg)

#### Ruptured Globe

- Nearly 20% of patients with ruptured globes do not have apparent signs of perforation
- Vision may be excellent and the most important clue to occult rupture may be...
  - what the patient was doing at the time of injury !

![](_page_18_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Picture_8.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Figure_9.jpeg)

#### Signs of Blow-out Fracture

- $\circ$  Restricted globe movement, esp. on elevation
- Orbital crepitus (subcutaneous emphysema)
- o Lid edema & ecchymosis
- hypoesthesia of the ipsilateral cheek, due to entrapment of the infraorbital nerve

![](_page_19_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_19_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_19_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_19_Picture_8.jpeg)

### Shaken Baby Syndrome

- 15% mortality rate
- Typical victims are male < 6 moa, who is alone with the perpetrator at the time of injury
- o Incidence unrelated to race, socioeconomic status or education
- $\circ$  Presenting sign is eye-related in 4 to 6% of cases
- $_{\odot}$  Retinal hemorrhages in 50% 80% of shaken babies

![](_page_19_Picture_15.jpeg)

![](_page_19_Picture_16.jpeg)

![](_page_19_Picture_17.jpeg)

![](_page_20_Picture_0.jpeg)

The OTS	
Table 1. Computational method for deriving the OT	IS score
initial visual ractor	Kaw points
A. Initial visual acuity category	NLP = 60 LP to HM = 70 1/200 to 19/200 = 80 20/200 to 20/50 = 90
	≥20/40 = 100
B. Globe rupture	-23
C. Endophthalmitis	-17
D. Perforating injury	-14
E. Retinal detachment	-11
F. Afferent pupillary defect (Marcus Gunn pupil)	-10
Para cross com - com of sam points	

![](_page_20_Figure_2.jpeg)

# Predicting Functional Prognosis

- Global rupture and endophthalmitis carry poor prognosis for vision recovery
- Variables such as age, extent of wound, hyphema, initial VA, intraocular FB, lens injury, RD – controversial

182

Predicting Functional Prognosis - The OTS Score
Table 2. Estimated probability of follow-up visual acuity category by the OTS Score

Raw Score	OTS	NLP	LP/HM	1/200-19/200	20/200 to 20/50	≥20/40
Sum	Score					
0-44	1	73%	17%	7%	2%	1%
45-65	2	28%	26%	18%	13%	15%
66-80	3	2%	11%	15%	28%	44%
81-91	4	1%	2%	2%	21%	74%
92-100	5	0%	1%	2%	5%	92%

#### Disclosures

 I have no financial interest in any products mentioned in this presentation. I wish I did. I have 2 kids in college ...

![](_page_20_Figure_10.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Picture_0.jpeg)