
Postgraduate Certificate in Ophthalmic Emergencies

Ocular Trauma and Emergencies

Ocular Trauma and Emergencies Key Terms and Vocabulary:

Ocular Trauma:

Ocular trauma refers to any damage or injury to the eye caused by physical force, foreign bodies, or chemical exposure. It can result in a range of issues from minor scratches to severe damage requiring immediate medical attention.

Conjunctiva:

The conjunctiva is the thin, transparent membrane that covers the white part of the eye and lines the inside of the eyelids. It helps protect the eye from foreign particles and infections.

Cornea:

The cornea is the clear, dome-shaped surface that covers the front of the eye. It plays a crucial role in focusing light into the eye and protecting the eye from external elements.

Sclera:

The sclera is the tough, white outer layer of the eye that provides structural support and protection to the eyeball. It is often referred to as the "white of the eye."

Iris:

The iris is the colored part of the eye that surrounds the pupil. It controls the amount of light entering the eye by adjusting the size of the pupil.

Pupil:

The pupil is the black circular opening in the center of the iris that allows light to enter the eye. It constricts in bright light and dilates in dim light to regulate the amount of light reaching the retina.

Retina:

The retina is the light-sensitive tissue lining the back of the eye. It contains photoreceptor cells that convert light into electrical signals, which are then transmitted to the brain through the optic nerve.

Optic Nerve:

The optic nerve is a bundle of nerve fibers that carries visual information from the retina to the brain. It is essential for vision as it transmits signals that are interpreted as images by the brain.

Hyphema:

Hyphema is a condition where blood collects in the front chamber of the eye, between the cornea and the

iris. It can result from trauma or other underlying eye conditions and requires immediate medical attention to prevent complications.

Orbital Fracture:

An orbital fracture is a break in the bones surrounding the eye, including the orbit (eye socket) and the bones of the face. It can lead to double vision, eye movement problems, and other serious complications if not treated promptly.

Chemical Burn:

A chemical burn to the eye occurs when a corrosive substance comes into contact with the eye, causing damage to the ocular tissues. Immediate irrigation with water is crucial to minimize long-term damage and prevent vision loss.

Corneal Abrasion:

A corneal abrasion is a scratch or injury to the cornea, typically caused by foreign objects, contact lenses, or trauma. It can result in pain, redness, tearing, and sensitivity to light.

Conjunctivitis:

Conjunctivitis, also known as pink eye, is an inflammation of the conjunctiva caused by infection, allergies, or irritants. It presents with redness, discharge, itching, and tearing and can be contagious in certain cases.

Subconjunctival Hemorrhage:

A subconjunctival hemorrhage occurs when blood vessels in the conjunctiva break, causing a red patch on the white part of the eye. It is typically painless and resolves on its own without treatment.

Orbital Compartment Syndrome:

Orbital compartment syndrome is a rare but serious condition where increased pressure within the orbit compromises blood flow to the eye. It can lead to vision loss and requires immediate decompression to prevent permanent damage.

Foreign Body:

A foreign body in the eye refers to any object or particle that enters the eye and causes irritation or injury. Common examples include dust, sand, metal shards, and eyelashes.

Blunt Trauma:

Blunt trauma to the eye occurs when a non-penetrating force strikes the eye, causing contusions, hemorrhages, or fractures. It can lead to vision loss and other complications if not promptly evaluated and managed.

Open Globe Injury:

An open globe injury is a full-thickness laceration or rupture of the eyeball, typically caused by sharp objects or high-velocity trauma. It is a surgical emergency that requires immediate repair to prevent infection and

preserve vision.

Traumatic Iritis:

Traumatic iritis is an inflammation of the iris following ocular trauma. It presents with eye pain, light sensitivity, blurred vision, and redness and requires prompt evaluation and treatment to prevent complications.

Corneal Laceration:

A corneal laceration is a deep cut or tear in the cornea, often caused by sharp objects or trauma. It can lead to vision loss, infection, and other complications if not promptly treated with sutures or surgical repair.

Angle Recession Glaucoma:

Angle recession glaucoma is a form of secondary glaucoma that occurs after blunt trauma to the eye. It is characterized by damage to the drainage angle, leading to increased intraocular pressure and potential vision loss if left untreated.

Hyphema Grading:

Hyphema grading is a method used to classify the severity of blood in the anterior chamber of the eye based on the percentage of blood filling the chamber. It helps guide treatment decisions and predict outcomes for patients with hyphema.

Ruptured Globe:

A ruptured globe refers to a full-thickness laceration or perforation of the eyeball, typically caused by severe trauma or penetrating injuries. It is a sight-threatening emergency that requires immediate surgical intervention to repair the globe and prevent complications.

Orbital Emphysema:

Orbital emphysema is a condition where air becomes trapped in the orbit following trauma or surgery, causing swelling and displacement of the eye. It can lead to vision changes and requires prompt evaluation and management to prevent further complications.

Chemical Keratitis:

Chemical keratitis is inflammation of the cornea caused by exposure to corrosive chemicals or irritants. It presents with pain, redness, blurred vision, and light sensitivity and requires immediate irrigation and treatment to prevent permanent damage.

Orbital Cellulitis:

Orbital cellulitis is a serious infection of the tissues surrounding the eye, typically caused by bacteria spreading from the sinuses or nearby structures. It presents with eye pain, swelling, fever, and vision changes and requires prompt antibiotic therapy and surgical drainage in severe cases.

Retinal Detachment:

Retinal detachment is a condition where the retina separates from the underlying tissue, leading to vision loss and potential blindness if not treated promptly. Symptoms include flashes of light, floaters, and a curtain-like shadow in the field of vision.

Endophthalmitis:

Endophthalmitis is a severe intraocular infection that can result from ocular trauma, surgery, or systemic infections. It presents with eye pain, redness, decreased vision, and floaters and requires urgent intravitreal antibiotics and possible vitrectomy to control the infection and preserve vision.

Orbital Trauma:

Orbital trauma refers to injuries involving the bones, soft tissues, and structures surrounding the eye, such as fractures, hematomas, or nerve damage. It can lead to vision loss, double vision, and other complications that require prompt evaluation and management by ophthalmologists.

Orbital Hematoma:

An orbital hematoma is a collection of blood within the orbit following trauma or surgery. It can cause proptosis (bulging of the eye), pain, and vision changes and may require drainage to relieve pressure and prevent further complications.

Orbital Apex Syndrome:

Orbital apex syndrome is a rare but severe condition where damage to the structures at the back of the orbit impairs eye movements, vision, and sensation in the face. It can result from trauma, tumors, or infections and requires urgent evaluation and treatment by a multidisciplinary team.

Scleral Laceration:

A scleral laceration is a full-thickness tear or cut in the sclera, typically caused by sharp objects or penetrating injuries. It can lead to intraocular damage, infection, and vision loss if not promptly repaired with sutures or surgical intervention.

Posterior Vitreous Detachment:

Posterior vitreous detachment is a common age-related condition where the vitreous gel separates from the retina, causing floaters, flashes of light, and vision changes. While usually benign, it can lead to retinal tears or detachment in some cases and requires monitoring by an eye care professional.

Anterior Chamber Depth:

The anterior chamber depth is the distance between the cornea and the iris in the front chamber of the eye. It is a critical measurement in assessing conditions like angle-closure glaucoma, shallow anterior chambers, and intraocular lens positioning.

Anterior Uveitis:

Anterior uveitis is inflammation of the iris and ciliary body in the front of the eye, often associated with pain, redness, light sensitivity, and blurred vision. It can be caused by infections, autoimmune diseases, or trauma

and requires prompt evaluation and treatment to prevent complications.

Corneal Ulcer:

A corneal ulcer is an open sore or lesion on the cornea caused by infections, trauma, or contact lens wear. It presents with pain, redness, discharge, and vision changes and requires topical antibiotics or antifungals to heal and prevent scarring.

Orbital Tumor:

An orbital tumor is an abnormal growth or mass in the orbit, which can be benign or malignant. Symptoms may include proptosis, double vision, pain, or vision changes, and prompt imaging and biopsy are essential for diagnosis and management.

Corneal Edema:

Corneal edema is swelling of the cornea due to fluid accumulation, typically caused by endothelial dysfunction, trauma, or surgery. It can lead to blurred vision, halos around lights, and discomfort and may require medications or surgical intervention to resolve.

Orbital Decompression:

Orbital decompression is a surgical procedure to relieve pressure within the orbit in conditions like thyroid eye disease or orbital trauma. It involves removing bone or fat to create space for the eye and surrounding structures, improving symptoms and preserving vision.

Corneal Foreign Body:

A corneal foreign body is an object or particle that becomes embedded in the cornea, causing pain, redness, tearing, and blurred vision. Prompt removal and evaluation by an eye care professional are essential to prevent infection and corneal damage.

Orbital Blowout Fracture:

An orbital blowout fracture is a specific type of fracture in the orbital bones, typically caused by blunt trauma to the eye. It can lead to eye muscle entrapment, double vision, and enophthalmos (sunken eye) and may require surgical repair to restore normal eye function.

Retinal Tear:

A retinal tear is a partial separation of the retina from the underlying tissue, which can progress to a retinal detachment if left untreated. Symptoms include flashes of light, floaters, and blurred vision, and urgent laser or cryotherapy is needed to prevent vision loss.

Orbital Foreign Body:

An orbital foreign body is an object or fragment that penetrates the orbit following trauma or high-velocity injuries. It can damage orbital structures, nerves, or blood vessels and requires prompt imaging, surgical exploration, and removal to prevent complications and preserve vision.

Corneal Topography:

Corneal topography is a diagnostic test that maps the curvature and shape of the cornea, providing valuable information for refractive surgery, contact lens fitting, and corneal disease management. It helps ophthalmologists assess corneal irregularities, astigmatism, and keratoconus.

Orbital Pseudotumor:

Orbital pseudotumor is a non-neoplastic inflammatory condition that mimics an orbital tumor, causing pain, proptosis, and vision changes. It can be idiopathic or associated with autoimmune diseases and requires biopsy and immunosuppressive therapy for diagnosis and management.

Corneal Transplant:

A corneal transplant, or keratoplasty, is a surgical procedure to replace a damaged or diseased cornea with healthy donor tissue. It is used to treat conditions like corneal scarring, keratoconus, and corneal dystrophies and can improve vision and quality of life for patients.

Orbital Lymphoma:

Orbital lymphoma is a form of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma that affects the orbital tissues, causing swelling, proptosis, and vision changes. It requires biopsy, imaging, and systemic treatment by oncologists and ophthalmologists to achieve remission and preserve vision.

Corneal Endothelium:

The corneal endothelium is a single layer of cells on the inner surface of the cornea that maintains corneal transparency by regulating fluid balance and pumping excess fluid out of the cornea. Damage to the endothelium can lead to corneal edema and vision loss.

Orbital Cavernous Hemangioma:

Orbital cavernous hemangioma is a benign vascular tumor that arises in the orbit, causing proptosis, pain, and vision changes. It requires imaging, biopsy, and surgical resection for definitive diagnosis and management to prevent compression of surrounding structures.

Corneal Dystrophy:

Corneal dystrophy is a group of genetic disorders that affect the cornea, leading to clouding, opacities, and visual disturbances. Types include Fuchs' dystrophy, lattice dystrophy, and map-dot-fingerprint dystrophy, each requiring specific management and monitoring by ophthalmologists.

Orbital Metastasis:

Orbital metastasis is the spread of cancer from a primary tumor to the orbit, causing proptosis, pain, and vision changes. It requires imaging, biopsy, and systemic treatment by oncologists to control the disease and improve quality of life for affected patients.

Corneal Neovascularization:

Corneal neovascularization is the growth of new blood vessels into the cornea, typically in response to

inflammation, infection, or hypoxia. It can compromise corneal transparency, increase the risk of rejection after transplantation, and require treatment with anti-VEGF agents or surgery.

Orbital Myositis:

Orbital myositis is inflammation of the extraocular muscles in the orbit, causing pain, diplopia, and restricted eye movements. It can be idiopathic or associated with autoimmune diseases and requires imaging, biopsy, and corticosteroid therapy for diagnosis and management.

Corneal Graft Rejection:

Corneal graft rejection is an immune-mediated response to donor tissue following keratoplasty, leading to corneal edema, inflammation, and vision loss. It requires prompt recognition and treatment with topical or systemic immunosuppressive medications to preserve graft clarity and function.

Orbital Fracture Repair:

Orbital fracture repair is a surgical procedure to reconstruct and stabilize fractured orbital bones, restoring normal eye alignment and function. It may involve open reduction and internal fixation with plates and screws or other techniques tailored to the specific fracture pattern.

Corneal Erosion:

Corneal erosion is the spontaneous or traumatic loss of corneal epithelium, causing pain, tearing, and sensitivity to light. It can result from underlying conditions like recurrent corneal erosions, dry eye syndrome, or trauma and requires lubrication, bandage contact lenses, or surgical treatments to promote healing.

Orbital Decompression Surgery:

Orbital decompression surgery is a procedure to alleviate pressure within the orbit in conditions like thyroid eye disease or orbital tumors. It aims to improve eye symptoms, reduce proptosis, and preserve vision by creating space for the eye and surrounding structures.

Corneal Refractive Surgery:

Corneal refractive surgery is a group of procedures that reshape the cornea to correct refractive errors like myopia, hyperopia, and astigmatism. Techniques include LASIK, PRK, and SMILE, each offering different benefits and risks tailored to individual patient needs and preferences.

Orbital Exenteration:

Orbital exenteration is a radical surgical procedure to remove the entire contents of the orbit, including the eye, surrounding tissues, and sometimes part of the skull. It is reserved for extensive orbital tumors, infections, or trauma that cannot be managed conservatively and aims to achieve local disease control and prevent spread to adjacent structures.

Corneal Opacity:

Corneal opacity is a loss of corneal transparency due to scarring, inflammation, or deposits, leading to

blurred vision and visual impairment. Causes include infections, trauma, and dystrophies, each requiring specific management strategies like medications, corneal transplantation, or therapeutic contact lenses.

Orbital Prosthesis:

An orbital prosthesis is a custom-made artificial eye that replaces the appearance of a missing or damaged eye following enucleation or evisceration surgery. It restores facial symmetry, self-esteem, and social interactions for patients while providing a natural-looking aesthetic result.

Corneal Endothelial Dystrophy:

Corneal endothelial dystrophy is a group of genetic disorders that affect the corneal endothelium, leading to corneal edema, opacities, and vision loss. Types include Fuchs' endothelial corneal dystrophy and congenital hereditary endothelial dystrophy, each requiring specific management and monitoring by ophthalmologists.

Orbital Osteoma:

Orbital osteoma is a benign bone tumor that arises in the orbit, causing proptosis, pain, and cosmetic changes. It requires imaging, biopsy, and surgical resection for definitive diagnosis and management to prevent compression of adjacent structures and preserve vision.

Corneal Nerve Regeneration:

Corneal nerve regeneration is the process of restoring damaged corneal nerves following trauma, surgery, or disease. Impaired nerve function can lead to corneal sensitivity, dry eye, and delayed healing, requiring treatments like autologous serum eye drops, nerve growth factors, or neurotrophic keratoplasty to promote nerve regrowth and corneal health.

Orbital Rhabdomyosarcoma:

Orbital rhabdomyosarcoma is a rare malignant tumor that arises in the orbit, primarily affecting children and young adults. It presents with proptosis, pain, and vision changes and requires multimodal treatment with surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy for optimal outcomes and survival.

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