

Blunt Trauma To The Eye

What Is Blunt Ocular Trauma?

When someone hits you in the eye with the end of a golf club or ball, or a baseball, and the hit is straight at the eye, the damage caused to your eye is called blunt injury or trauma. This direct injury to the eye and the contents of the eye socket is a frequent occurrence. It is often associated with bruising or cutting of the eyelid. A more severe consequence of blunt trauma is the rupture of the globe, which can be compared to someone standing on an orange and crushing it.

How Does It Occur?

Blunt ocular trauma occurs frequently in sporting activities, as well as in industrial situations, domestic situations and on farms.

Who Is At Risk?

There is a bimodal distribution, with one peak in adolescents and young adults and another in those more than 75 years of age. About 30% of ocular trauma occurs in children under the age of 10 and about 35% of hospital admissions involve patients under the age of 15. The problem occurs more often in males than females.

What Should I Tell The Doctor?

When you go to your doctor for consultation, he/she is likely to ask the following questions. Answering the questions in a truthful manner will ensure you receive optimal treatment.

- How did the injury happen?
- When did the injury happen?
- Who was with you when the accident happened?
- Do you have any history of previous eye surgery, eye injury, patching or glasses?
- How is your general health?
- Are you on any medications or do you have any allergies?
- What is the status of your tetanus immunization?
- Have you been involved with projectiles, such as BB guns or sharp objects (*i.e.*, pens, pencils, knives)?
- What was your visual status before the injury?
- Was there loss of consciousness with the injury?
- Was there loss of vision, double vision, floaters or flashes of light, or loss of side vision with the injury?

What's Next?

The doctor may put some freezing and some yellow dye in your eye to determine if he/she can see scratches, abrasions or foreign bodies. When your doctor has decided what is wrong, he/she may want to send you to an eye surgeon for further examination. You also may receive a prescription for an eye ointment to be applied if you have a scratch on the window of your eye. Ask your doctor how to properly administer the ointment.

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