



Eye Injury/Foreign Body

The term foreign body refers to any object near, on the surface of or in the eye that should not be there. A foreign body may be a small speck of dirt or dust, a hair or eyelash, a splinter or any object.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

The use of eye patches is not universal. Their use varies from practitioner to practitioner

If an eye patch was applied:

Your healthcare provider has patched your eye to treat your injury. Eye patches can be hard or soft, and are designed to keep light out of the eye and to prevent the eyelid from moving. This may help decrease the pain in the eye and speed proper healing. If the pain in your eye increases, you may loosen it or take it off completely.

- Keep the eye patch on for _____ days or as long as directed by your healthcare provider until the follow-up appointment.
- Do not remove the patch to put in medications unless instructed to do so. When replacing the patch, retape it as it was before. Follow the same procedure if the patch becomes loose.
- **WARNING:** Do not drive or operate machinery while the eye is patched. The ability to judge distances will be impaired.
- Only take over-the-counter or prescription medicines for pain, discomfort or fever as directed by your healthcare provider.

If no eye patch was applied:

- Keep the eye closed as much as possible. Do not rub the eye.
- Wear dark glasses as needed to protect the eyes from bright light or sunlight.
- Do not wear contact lenses until instructed.
- Wear eye protection if there is a risk of eye injury. This is important when working with high speed tools.
- Only take over-the-counter or prescription medicines for pain, discomfort or fever as directed by your healthcare provider.

Medications:

If prescribed, carefully follow instructions on label. Do not use eye preparations or medications prescribed for another person.

Certain eye drops or ointments result in blurred vision.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- Pain increases in the eye or the vision changes.
- The injury to the eye appears to be getting larger or there is discharge from the injured eye.
- Swelling and/or soreness (inflammation) develops around the affected eye.
- You or your child has an oral temperature above 37.8° C (100° F), not controlled by medicine.
- Your baby is 3 months old or younger with a rectal temperature of 38° C (100.4° F) or higher.

This general advice cannot cover all possible problems. If there is concern, please contact your physician, healthcare provider or the Emergency Department without delay.