

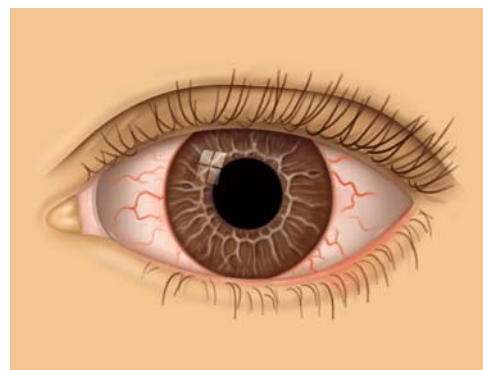
Discharge Instructions

CHEMICAL EXPOSURE: EYE

You had a chemical exposure to your eye. The effects can range from mild irritation to permanent scarring and vision loss. The type of chemical, how concentrated it was, whether it was an acid or a base, and how long it was in your eye will determine the degree of injury.

It is common to have some irritation for the next 24 hours, even in mild cases. If the exposure was more serious, be sure to follow up as directed.

The pressure inside of the eye can increase hours to days after a chemical eye injury (glaucoma). This requires prompt treatment. Watch for the symptoms below.



HOME CARE:

- 1) A cold pack (ice in a plastic bag, wrapped in a towel) may be applied over the eye for 20 minutes at a time. This will reduce pain.
- 2) Eye drops may be prescribed to reduce irritation, inflammation and risk of infection. If no drops were prescribed, you may use Visine, Vasocon or similar over-the-counter decongestant eye drops for irritation or redness.
- 3) You may use acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil) to control pain, unless another medicine was prescribed. **[NOTE: If you have chronic liver or kidney disease or ever had a stomach ulcer or GI bleeding, talk with your doctor before using these medicines.]**
- 4) If an EYE PATCH was applied:
 - You may place the ice pack over the eye-patch.
 - If you were given a return appointment for patch removal and re-exam, do not miss it. An eye patch should not be left in place for more than 48 hours, unless you are advised to do so by your doctor.
 - **DO NOT DRIVE** a motor vehicle or use machinery with the patch in place. It is difficult to judge distance with only one eye.

FOLLOW UP with your doctor or this facility as directed, or if your symptoms have not improved after 24 hours.

RETURN PROMPTLY or contact your doctor if any of the following occur:

- Increased eyelid swelling
- Increasing pain in the eye
- Increasing redness or drainage from the eye
- Failure of normal vision to return within 24-48 hours
- Continued feeling like something is in your eye, lasting more than 48 hours