Purpose:
To evaluate and remove foreign body or chemical from the anterior surface of the eye

Indications:
Patient presents with foreign material on the anterior surface of the eye

Advantages:
Decreases discomfort of foreign body in the eye
Prevent further injury

Disadvantages:
May intensify injury if foreign body is not easily removed

Complications:
Ocular injury from tip of the irrigating line or from pressure from the fluid stream
Vagal stimulation due to ocular pressure

Contraindications:
Ruptured globe

Decreases discomfort of foreign body in the eye
Prevent further injury

Pull down lower eyelid, inspect fornix for presence of foreign material

Yes

Attach minidrip administration set to 1 liter IV bag of normal saline

Yes

Position bag just slightly above level of patient’s head to avoid solution running at high pressure

Chemical injury?

No

Hold end of administration set over area to be irrigated

Remove particulate matter with moistened cotton-tipped applicator

Yes

Holding eyelids open, direct flow of normal saline over area to be irrigated

Evert upper eyelid to check for foreign body

No

If superficial foreign body is present on upper lid, remove particulate matter with moistened cotton-tipped applicator

If unable to easily remove foreign body, patch both eyes and arrange transport

Position patient supine with head turned toward affected side

Hold eyelid(s) open without exerting pressure on eyeball

Direct IV fluid across surface of eye from medial to lateral side

Continue irrigation during transport

Chemical injury?

Position patient supine with head turned toward affected side

Hold eyelid(s) open without exerting pressure on eyeball

Direct IV fluid across surface of eye from medial to lateral side

Continue irrigation during transport

Holding eyelids open, direct flow of normal saline over area to be irrigated

Repeat irrigation procedure for upper eyelid

If unable to easily remove foreign body, patch both eyes and arrange transport

Chemical injury?

No

Hold end of administration set over area to be irrigated

Adjust flow rate of IV solution

If superficial foreign body is present on upper lid, remove particulate matter with moistened cotton-tipped applicator

NOTES:
• Use at least one liter of normal saline to flush each eye.