



Eye Irrigation

EMT-Basic

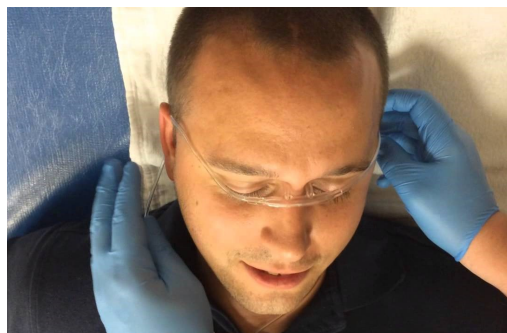
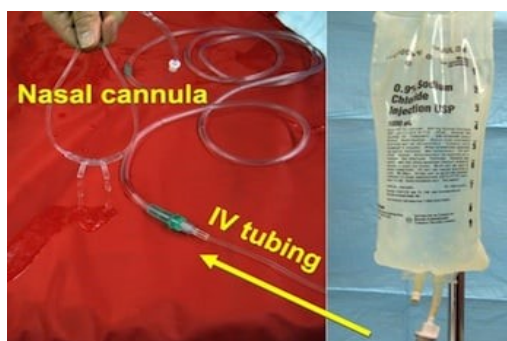
Advanced EMT

Paramedic

PROCEDURE

- Collect information regarding the mechanism and/or exposure
- Assess for pain, loss of vision and eye muscle function
- Encourage the patient, and assist if needed, in removing the patient's contact lenses
- Identify the irritant/exposure
 - Thermal burns— irrigate the burned area with tepid water (sterile if possible) to cool the area. Do not attempt to wipe off solids (grease, tar, wax, etc) or apply ice
 - Dry chemical burns— brush off dry powder and irrigate with copious amounts of tepid water (sterile, if possible) for approximately 20 minutes
 - Liquid chemical burns— irrigate the burned area with copious amounts of tepid water (sterile, if possible) for approximately 20 minutes
 - Pepper gas exposure— irrigate the eyes as tolerated for approximately 20 minutes with tepid water
 - Encourage the patient to not rub their face or eyes
- Ensure there are no underlying medical issues that need attention or any injuries that need treatment

REFERENCE GRAPHICS



KEY POINTS

- Do not delay treatment while trying to determine nature of substance
- Continue to assess for any pain and deteriorating vision that may warrant expedited transport
- If the patient feels relief, continuous flushing may continue until arrival at hospital

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