Ocular Trauma Score: case study and quiz

A 65-year-old man suffered an injury to the right eye, caused by a stone which ricocheted into his face while using a weed cutter in his garden at home. He had not been wearing eye protection.

At initial assessment when he presented to the hospital 17 hours following the injury, his visual acuity was nil perception of light (NPL). He had a corneal perforation and early signs of endophthalmitis. A CT scan showed no intraocular foreign body. Answer the questions and then present. A CT scan showed no intraocular foreign body.

Q1. What abnormality can you see on examination? (Select one)
- a. Corneal ulcer
- b. Hypopyon
- c. Orbital cellulitis
- d. Iris
- e. Hyphaema

Q2. Which of these examinations/investigations would be appropriate? (Select all that apply)
- a. Ocular movements
- b. Examination of the pupils
- c. Slit lamp examination of the lens
- d. Measurement of intra-ocular pressure (IOP)
- e. Ophthalmoscopy

Q3. Which of the following may be indicated in treatment? (Select all that apply)
- a. Aspirin
- b. Immediate referral for surgical removal of the hyphaema
- c. Rest
- d. Acetazolamide tablets
- e. Annual check of intraocular pressure (IOP)

ANSWERS

1. D.
2. All of the tests are appropriate.
3. c, d and e.
4. a, b, c and d.
5. c, d and e.

ANSWERS

1. The BETTS classification has been introduced to standardise classification of ocular injuries. This simplified system can NOT be used to:
- a. Audit ocular injuries at a hospital
- b. Assist with visual prognosis in conjunction with the ocular trauma score
- c. Assess trauma with intraocular foreign body
- d. Describe chemical injuries

2. In assessing a patient with ocular trauma, the patient is most likely to be in a state of anxiety. What is the most appropriate action to take to manage the anxiety?
- a. Adopt a calm, sympathetic, reassuring and yet authoritative presence
- b. Take a quick visual acuity and make a prognosis
- c. Establish with some urgency who and what caused the trauma
- d. Provide intravenous analgesics/painkillers immediately

ANSWERS

1. c. Dislocation of the lens can occur after blunt injuries, which can cause ocular pain.
2. b. Iritis is part of the inflammatory response to injury.
3. b. The patient is not wearing eye protection.
4. c. The patient has a corneal perforation.
5. d. The patient has a corneal perforation.

REFLECTIVE LEARNING

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