



1. Overview
  - a. Corneal abrasions are eye injuries commonly seen in primary care or the Emergency Department.
  - b. Some reasons for checking for corneal abrasions are eye injury resulting from eye trauma, suspected foreign bodies in the eye, or noted improper contact lens use.
2. Goal of the Procedure
  - a. Detect the presence or absence of a corneal abrasion without complications
  - b. Use a cobalt blue light (wood's light) to assess for corneal abrasion
3. References
  - a. [Colyar, M. R. \(2015\). Corneal abrasion. In M. R. Colyar, \*Advanced practice nursing procedures\* \(pp. 335 - 339\). Philadelphia, PA: F. A. Davis.](#)
4. **Required Reading / Review**
  - Trobe, J. (2009). The eyes have it: An interactive teaching and assessment program on vision care. University of Michigan Kellogg Eye Center. Retrieved from <http://kellogg.umich.edu/theeyeshaveit/>
  - [Jacobs, D. S. \(2015\). Corneal abrasions and corneal foreign bodies: Management.](#)
  - [Wipperman, J. L., & Dorsch, J. N. \(2013\). Evaluation and management of corneal abrasions. \*American Family Physician\*, 87\(2\), 114-120.](#)
  - [UpToDate. \(2017\). Algorithm: Management of corneal abrasions.](#)
5. Required Procedure Competencies
  - Hand the patient a tissue and instill one or two drops of a topical ophthalmic anesthetic, such as Proparacaine ophthalmic drops, into the affected eye.
  - Inspect the affected eye, briefly but thoroughly, with a bright white light source, and compare it to the opposite eye. The sclera should be intact.
  - Perform eversion of the upper lid, which is usually necessary to examine the entire conjunctiva.
  - Instill fluorescein dye by moistening a sterile fluorescein strip with one or two drops of sterile saline or topical anesthetic, asking the patient to look up, and gently touching the lower conjunctival sac for 3 to 5 seconds. Use a minimal amount of solution when wetting the strip.
  - Initiate irrigation with 0.9% sodium chloride to remove all dye from the eye.
  - Inspect the cornea with magnification under a cobalt-blue light source.