

Which type of glaucoma presents an ocular emergency?

Acute angle-closure glaucoma

Explanation:

Acute angle-closure glaucoma results in rapid progressive visual impairment. Normal tension glaucoma is treated with topical medication. Ocular hypertension is treated with topical medication. Chronic open-angle glaucoma is treated initially with topical medications, with oral medications added at a later time.

Following an ophthalmologic exam, an anxious client asks the nurse, "How serious is a refraction error?" Which of the following is the best response from the nurse?

"It means corrective lenses are required."

Explanation:

Refractive errors can be corrected with glasses or contact lenses. Telling a client that "nothing is serious" does not provide the necessary information to help alleviate fears. The word surgery can increase fears. If the refractive error is associated with aging, this is a normal finding but does not provide information to the condition.

A patient presents to an eye clinic with a number of symptoms related to his diminished vision. An initial history leads the nurse practitioner to suspect that the patient has acute angle-closure glaucoma. Which of the following symptoms would apply to this diagnosis? Select all that apply.

Severe eye pain

Reddening of the eye

Sudden onset of visual disturbance

Nausea and vomiting

Explanation:

Gradual loss of peripheral vision, usually in both eyes, and tunnel vision in advanced stages are symptoms of primary open-angle glaucoma.

A nurse is examining the eyes of a client who has complained of having a feeling of a foreign body in his eye. The nurse examines the thin, transparent, continuous membrane that lines the inside of the eyelids and covers most of the anterior eye. The nurse recognizes this membrane as which of the following?

Conjunctiva

Explanation:

The conjunctiva is a thin, transparent, continuous membrane that is divided into two portions: a palpebral and a bulbar portion. The palpebral conjunctiva lines the inside of the eyelids, and the bulbar conjunctiva covers most of the anterior eye, merging with the cornea at the limbus. The innermost layer, the retina, extends only to the ciliary body anteriorly. It receives visual stimuli and sends them to the brain. The sclera is a dense, protective, white covering that physically supports the internal structures of the eye. The transparent cornea (the "window of the eye") permits the entrance of light, which passes through the lens to the retina.

A patient in the clinic where you work is considered legally blind. The nurse knows that this means the vision in his better eye, corrected by glasses, is what?

20/200 or less

Explanation:

In the United States, a person is usually considered legally blind when vision in the better eye, corrected by glasses, is 20/200 or less.

A client is being assessed following a motor vehicle accident. The client's right eye is swollen shut and very painful. Why does this require further assessment?

Blunt-force trauma often results in fracture of the orbit

Explanation:

High-velocity injuries ARE typically penetrating. Blunt-force trauma often results in fracture of the orbit. Optic atrophy is atrophy of the optic nerve. Strabismus is the medical term for cross-eyed.

A patient has a nursing diagnosis of disturbed visual sensory perception. Which of the following is the most appropriate outcome for this patient's care planning?

The patient will remain free from harm resulting from a loss of vision.

near objects and is more common in the adult as they age. Color blindness is a genetic condition and not impacted by the age of the client

Which of the following assessment findings suggests a problem with the client's cranial nerves?

A client's extraocular movements are asymmetrical and she complains of diplopia.

Explanation:

Deficits in cranial nerves III, IV, and VI can manifest as impaired extraocular movements or diplopia. Flashes of light are associated with retinal detachment, while intraocular bleeding and cataracts do not have a neurological etiology.

The optic nerves from each eyeball cross at the optic chiasma.

Explanation:

At the point where the optic nerves from each eyeball cross—the optic chiasma—the nerve fibers from the nasal quadrant of each retina (from both temporal visual fields) cross over to the opposite side.

A nurse has performed the corneal light reflex test during a client's eye examination. During this test, the nurse held a penlight 1 foot from the client's eyes and appraised the client's eye alignment in which of the following ways?

By comparing the reflection of the light on the client's eye surface

Explanation:

During the corneal light reflex test, the reflection of light on the corneas is assessed and should be in the exact same spot on each eye, indicating parallel alignment. Constriction, color of the sclerae, and blinking are not appraised.

Inspection of a client's eyelids reveals significant lid swelling, moderate redness, but little pain. Which of the following would the nurse suspect?

Chalazion

Seeing rings around lights or halos is associated with narrow angle glaucoma. Diabetes produces change in the retina that can cause blurred vision. Cataracts are caused by clouding of the lens of the eyes. Hypertension affects the blood vessels of the eyes which may not cause any eye symptoms until the damage is severe.

A client has tested 20/40 on the distant visual acuity test using a Snellen chart. The nurse should refer the client to an optometrist.

Explanation:

Myopia (impaired far vision) is present when the second number in the test result is larger than the first (20/40). The higher the second number, the poorer the vision.

A client presents to the emergency department after being hit in the head with a baseball bat during a game. The nurse should assess for which condition?

Hyphema

Explanation:

Hyphema is blood in the anterior chamber of the eye, usually caused by blunt trauma. Blepharitis is inflammation of the margin of the eyelid. Chalazion is a cyst in the eyelid. Iris nevus is a rare condition affecting one eye. The latter 3 conditions are not commonly attributed to blunt force trauma to the head as hyphema is.

Equipment used for objective data collection involving the eyes includes which of the following? Select all that apply.

- Penlight
- Ophthalmoscope
- Snellen chart
- Occlusive covers

Explanation:

Common equipment used for eye assessment includes penlight, cotton wisps, cotton-tipped applicators, ophthalmoscope, Snellen chart, Jaeger chart, occlusive covers for individual eye testing, and Ishihara

An eight-grade boy tells the school nurse that the eye doctor told him he had astigmatism and that meant his eyeball wasn't shaped right. The boy says he went home and looked in the mirror and both eyes looked just alike. What is the school nurse's best response?

"Astigmatism means that the cornea of the eye is shaped differently than the cornea in most eyes."

Explanation:

Astigmatism is visual distortion caused by an irregularly shaped cornea. Many people have both astigmatism and myopia or hyperopia. Options B, C, and D are incorrect because they are not the best answer.

Which of the following surgical procedures involves flattening the anterior curvature of the cornea by removing a stromal lamella layer?

Laser-assisted stromal in situ keratomileusis (LASIK)

Explanation:

LASIK involves flattening the anterior curvature of the cornea by removing a stromal lamella or layer. PRK is used to treat myopia and hyperopia with or without astigmatism. Keratoconus is cone-shaped deformity of the cornea. Keratoplasty involves replacing abnormal host tissue with healthy donor (cadaver) corneal tissue.

What type of medication would the nurse use in combination with mydriatics to dilate the patient's pupil?

Cycloplegics

Explanation:

Mydriasis, or pupil dilation, is the main objective of the administration of mydriatics and cycloplegics (Table 63-3). These two types of medications function differently and are used in combination to achieve the maximal dilation that is needed during surgery and fundus examinations to give the ophthalmologist a better view of the internal eye structures.

The ophthalmologist tells a patient that he has increased intraocular pressure (IOP). The nurse understands that increased pressure, resulting from optic nerve damage, is indicated by a reading of:

>21 mm Hg.

Explanation:

Normal intraocular pressure is 10 to 21 mm Hg. Readings of more than 21 are indicative of increased pressure and probably optic nerve damage.

A patient visits a clinic for an eye examination. He describes his visual changes and mentions a specific diagnostic clinical sign of glaucoma. What is that clinical sign?

The presence of halos around lights

Explanation:

Colored halos around lights is a classic symptom of acute-closure glaucoma.

A major role for nursing in the management of glaucoma is health education. Which of the following is the most important teaching point that the nurse should advise the patient of?

Adhere to the medication regimen

Explanation:

All of the teaching points are important but the most important is emphasizing the strict adherence to the medication regimen because glaucoma cannot be cured but its progression can be slowed.

A client accidentally splashes chemicals into one eye. The nurse knows that eye irrigation with plain tap water should begin immediately and continue for 15 to 20 minutes. What is the primary purpose of this first-aid treatment?

To prevent vision loss

Explanation:

Prolonged eye irrigation after a chemical burn is the most effective way to prevent formation of permanent scar tissue and thus help prevent vision loss. After a potentially serious eye injury, the victim should always seek medical care. Eye irrigation isn't considered a stopgap measure.

A nurse in a primary care office is getting a client ready for an examination with a health care provider. While talking to the client, she notices that her left upper eyelid is drooping. She records on the client's record that she observed which of the following?

Ptosis

Explanation:

Ptosis is drooping or falling of the upper or lower eyelid. Ptolemy is not a medical condition. Ptosis is the term used to describe drooping of the upper or lower eyelid. Proptosis is the extended or protruded upper eyelid that delays closing or remains partially open. Ptosis is drooping or falling of the upper or lower eyelid. Nystagmus is uncontrolled oscillating movement of the eyeball. Ptosis is drooping or falling of the upper or lower eyelid.

During a routine eye examination, a patient complains that she is unable to read road signs at a distance when driving her car. What should the patient be assessed for?

Myopia

Explanation:

Some people have deeper eyeballs, in which case the distant visual image focuses in front of, or short of, the retina; those with myopia (impaired vision) are said to be nearsighted and have blurred distance vision.

The nurse is administering an ophthalmic ointment to a patient with conjunctivitis. What disadvantage of the application of an ointment does the nurse explain to the patient?

Blurred vision results after application.

Explanation:

Ophthalmic ointments have extended retention time in the conjunctival sac and provide a higher concentration than eye drops. The major disadvantage of ointments is the blurred vision that results after application. In general, eyelids and eyelid margins are best treated with ointments.

A client has just been diagnosed with early glaucoma. During a teaching session, the nurse should demonstrate eyedrop instillation.

Explanation:

A client with chronic open-angle glaucoma is now presenting with eye pain and intraocular pressure of 50 mm Hg. An immediate iridotomy is scheduled. Which of the following describes the desired effects of this procedure?

Improve outflow drainage

Explanation:

Laser iridotomy or standard iridotomy is a surgical procedure that provides additional outlet drainage of aqueous humor. This is done to lower the IOP as quickly as possible since permanent vision loss can occur in 1 to 2 days. Once optic nerve damage occurs, it cannot be reversed, and vision is not restored. Pain that occurs with rising IOP will be controlled once pressure is lowered through improved outflow drainage.

A patient is diagnosed with a corneal abrasion and the nurse has administered proparacaine hydrochloride (Ophthaine 0.5%) per orders to assess visual acuity. The patient requests a prescription for this medication because it completely took away the pain. What is the best response by the nurse?

“Prescriptions of this medication are generally not given because it can cause corneal problems.”

Explanation:

Proparacaine hydrochloride (Ophthaine 0.5%) can cause corneal softening and other complications if overused. Patients with corneal abrasions or other painful eye disorders have a tendency to overuse the medication, thus leading to the complications. It would not be appropriate to give the bottle with written instructions and it is not a standard prescription for eye disorders because of the complications from overuse. Telling the patient that you will let the doctor know does not provide the education needed about this medication.

There are four major types of ophthalmic procedures to complete a glaucoma examination. If the health care provider wants to inspect the optic nerve, the nurse would prepare the patient for:

Ophthalmoscopy.

Explanation:

Four major types of examinations are used in glaucoma evaluation, diagnosis, and management: tonometry to measure the IOP, ophthalmoscopy to inspect the optic nerve, gonioscopy to examine the filtration angle of the anterior chamber, and perimetry to assess the visual fields.