

16. Eye injuries

Location of services and referral pathways for Yorkshire & Humber

In the child with multiple trauma they will be transferred to the Major Trauma Centre (MTC) according to the usual major trauma pathway (see [Section 3](#)). Each MTC will have ophthalmology support available to them.

History	Mechanism, previous eye pathology
Look	Subconjunctival haemorrhage, lid lacerations, foreign bodies, fluorescein staining of cornea / conjunctivae
Check	Visual acuity, pupils (anisocoria, unreactive to light / peaked, red reflex, eye movement, proptosis)

Immediate referral to ophthalmology if any concerns about

- globe integrity
- intraocular foreign bodies
- chemical / thermal injuries
- retrobulbar haemorrhage
- orbital cellulitis / collection
- significantly reduced vision

Immediate management

Open globe injury	Instil one drop preservative free chloramphenicol drop and cover with plastic eye shield (not eye pad) to protect against external pressure
Chemical / thermal injury	Remove any causative foreign body Irrigate eyes immediately with at least one litre 0.9% sodium chloride Check pH using indicator paper. Irrigate until neutral.
Retrobulbar haemorrhage	Refer to max fax or attempt lateral canthotomy and cantholysis with local anaesthetic
Orbital cellulitis / collection	Consider CT orbits, sinuses and brain ENT review
Significantly reduced vision - unknown cause	Urgent referral to ophthalmology registrar on call
Suspected abusive head trauma	Should have dilated eye examination and retinal photos within 24 hours of referral
Orbital floor fractures with inferior rectus entrapment	Can have minimal swelling but can get bradycardia, especially in up gaze Order CT orbits and ask max fax to operate urgently.

Who to call

Leeds Teaching Hospital (in hours or out of hours):

- On call registrar on mobile via LTHT switchboard 0113 243 2799
- Consultant on call on mobile via LTHT switchboard 0113 243 2799

Sheffield Children's Hospital:

- In-hours- ophthalmology nurse triage service- 0114 243 4343 bleep 250
- Out-of-hours- on call ophthalmology registrar via Hallamshire switchboard 0114 271 1900