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Corneal Ulcers or Infection

Patient name: _____ Admission: _____

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- I. The client/caregiver can define corneal ulcer**
- The cornea is the curved, transparent covering on the front of the eye.
 - The cornea can become damaged by injury (trauma), or an infection can cause a sore on the outer layer of cornea.
- II. The client/caregiver can list causes or risk factors for corneal ulcers or infection.**
- Ulcers can be caused by infections (bacteria, viruses, fungi, or amoebae).
 - Other causes for the creation of sores or abrasions on the cornea can be
 - From foreign bodies such as sand or dust
 - Severely dry eyes
 - Severe allergies
 - Overuse of contact lens
 - Inflammatory disorders
- III. The client/caregiver can list symptoms of corneal abrasions or infections.**
- Eye pain
 - Impaired vision
 - Eye redness
 - White patch on the cornea
 - Abnormal sensitivity to light
 - Watery eyes
 - Eye burning, itching, and discharge
- IV. The client/caregiver can list measures to manage or treat corneal injuries.**
- Physician may use antibiotic, antiviral, or antifungal eye drops to treat any identified infection.
 - Corticosteroid eye drops may be used to reduce inflammation.
 - Wash hands carefully.

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- Use proper technique when handling contact lens.
 - Avoid wearing contact lens during sleep.
- V. The client/caregiver can list measures to prevent injury/infection to eyes.**
- Wear safety goggles.
 - When using hand or power tools
 - When using chemicals
 - When involved in high impact sports
 - Wear sunglasses designed to screen ultraviolet light.
 - Use good technique when handling contact lens.
 - Avoid wearing contact lens during sleep.
 - Use good hand-washing techniques.
- VI. The client/caregiver can list possible complications.**
- Corneal scarring
 - Severe vision loss
 - Need for corneal transplant
 - Loss of the eye

RESOURCES

Emergency care facility

Ophthalmologist

National Eye Institute (National Institutes of Health)
www.nei.nih.gov**REFERENCES**

- Cohen, B. J., & Taylor, J. J. (2005). *Memmler's the human body in health and disease* (10th ed.). Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.
- Perry, A., & Potter, P. (2006). *Clinical nursing skills & technique*. St. Louis: Mosby Inc.
- Taylor, C., Lillis, C., & LeMone, P. (2005). *Fundamentals of nursing*. Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins.