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Cataract Removal

Patient name: _____

Admission: _____

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- I. The client/caregiver can define cataracts and cataract surgery.**
- A cataract is the clouding of the lens and lens capsule of the eye, which is usually clear.
 - The cataract causes the pupil of the eye to appear gray or white instead of black.
 - The development of cataracts is usually associated with aging.
 - Other causes for cataract formation can be
 - Congenital disease
 - Trauma
 - Toxins
 - Intraocular inflammation
 - Chronic diseases such as diabetes
- II. The client/caregiver can describe the types of cataract surgery.**
- Intracapsular is the surgical removal of the entire lens and surrounding capsule. This is the most common type of cataract removal surgery.
 - Extracapsular is the surgical removal of the anterior portion of the lens and capsule. The posterior capsule is left intact.
 - Phaco emulsion is the use of ultrasonic vibrations to break lens into particles that can be removed by suction. This is the preferred method for clients younger than 30 years.
 - Lens implantation is the insertion of an intraocular lens implant after cataract removal.
- III. The client/caregiver can recognize signs and symptoms of cataracts.**
- Painless, gradual blurred vision
 - Poor reading vision
 - Gray or white opacity over pupil
 - Decreased peripheral vision
 - Photophobia, glare (especially at night)
- IV. The client/caregiver can list postoperative instructions.**
- Wear eye patch over eye as ordered and eye shield at night when sleeping as ordered.

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- Discuss the use of postoperative eye drops/medications as ordered.
 - If wearing patch, warn that depth perception will be lost.
 - Give pain medications as ordered.
 - Discuss with physician any medication to be administered (as needed) for nausea.
 - Avoid straining at stool.
 - Avoid vomiting.
 - Wear dark glasses if eyes are sensitive to bright sunlight.
 - Report symptoms of possible complications (i.e., visual changes, pain, increased redness or drainage, or persistent headaches).
 - Keep follow-up appointment with physician.
- V. The client/caregiver can adequately instill eye drops as prescribed.**
- Wash hands before and after installation.
 - Instill drops onto inner lower eyelid.
 - Do not touch eye with the eyedropper.
- VI. The client/caregiver can list possible complications.**
- Hemorrhage
 - Corneal edema or scarring
 - Infection
 - Retinal detachment

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