

Penetrating eye injuries

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These occur when the globe is penetrated, often in road traffic and other major accidents (Figure 49.23) and also in injuries from sharp instruments. The compulsory wearing of seat belts in motor vehicles has substantially reduced the incidence of this type of eye injury , by up to 73% in the UK. The presence of an irregular pupil suggests prolapse of the iris and should arouse suspicion of a penetrating injury . Treatment is prompt primary repair to restore the integrity of the globe. not be attempted before anaesthesia because this may lead to further extrusion of the intraocular contents. If the fundal view is poor, ultrasonography and orbital imaging are indicated. Secondary corneal grafting, lensectomy and vitrectomy have considerably improved the visual prognosis; these must be done by an experienced eye surgeon. Injuries to the optic nerves must also be excluded in severe accidents.

Figure 49.21 Retinal haemorrhage from a cricket bat injury (courtesy of J Beare, FRCS). Figure 49.22 Retinal dialysis after blunt ocular injury. Figure 49.23 Facial lacerations from a windscreen injury. Beware of a perforating eye injury.

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