

IMPROVING THE EXPERIENCE FOR PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY PATIENTS IN THE AMBULATORY SURGERY CENTER

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At the Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC), care is provided to children for ophthalmological procedures. Practice was to administer the eye drops by prying the patient's eyes open, frequently resulting in improper administration of dilating eye drops prior to surgery. The main objectives were to decrease the anxiety, and stress felt by children and their guardians while receiving preoperative eye drops.

Nursing Changes to Eye Drop Administration:

Varied distractors implemented during medication application included cartoon decals on preop walls, handheld windmills, kaleidoscopes, bubbles and glow in the dark stars were placed on the ceiling of each preop room. Overhead lights turned off & patient instructed to look at glow in the dark stars prior to eye drop administration. Eye drops administered by the RN with patient's eyes closed. Eye drops pooled in the corner of the operative eye. Patient instructed to blink their eye open, and eye drops roll in and dilate the eye. Patient participation encouraged by wiping their own eyes after administration of eye drops. Implementation of a "treasure chest" reward system and prizes for giveaway. After eye drop administration, patient given a choice of prize & stickers.

There was an increase in patient comfort as evidenced by FLACC scores post intervention. There was a visible decrease in patient discomfort and anxiety after implementation of distractors and new process of eye drop administration. This project advanced the practice of perianesthesia nursing by implementing a nurse driven, patient and family centered intervention to improve perianesthesia care.