

## **“That’s Not Sand in Your Eye!”:**

### **Standardizing Management of Corneal Abrasions in the Perioperative Setting**

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**Background Information:** Corneal abrasions are a potential complication that can occur following general anesthesia. Knowledge deficits and inconsistencies among staff were identified when caring for patients who develop corneal abrasions. Therefore, a committee was formed to improve current practice. In collaboration with anesthesiologists, an education-based approach process was created to standardize escalation of care and documentation to improve patient outcomes.

#### **Objectives of Project:**

- Standardize the management of care with patients who developed corneal abrasions
- Enhance nursing documentation related to assessment and provider notification
- Increase awareness of the Corneal Abrasion Algorithm, escalation of care process, patient education, and new order sets
- Improve patient outcomes through staff and patient education

**Process of Implementation:** An online pre-education survey was distributed to perioperative nursing staff. The results revealed that 66% consulted a provider and 33% were not sure. In addition, only 34.6% nurses agreed to provide written instructions, 41.8% did not agree and 23.6% never provided discharge instructions. Furthermore, 55.8% highly recommend a treatment plan and 44.2% think otherwise. 50.9% believe that a flowchart could standardize care. The survey results indicated a knowledge deficit in the management of corneal abrasions. A team of nurses reviewed the current practice and developed an action plan. Staff education related to post-operative corneal abrasions was created to improve management via escalation of care, reduce knowledge deficits, and assure compliance and documentation of new guidelines.

**Statement of Successful Practice:** Creation of an escalation flowchart, a new order set, and patient discharge instructions were established to standardize the management of corneal abrasions. A focused chart audit was conducted, and safety reporting was encouraged in all areas. Post-education survey showed an increase of nurses consulting a provider at 71%. Also 68% of nurses provided discharge instructions as opposed to 34.6% pre-education. More nurses agreed that an escalation flowchart can standardize care at 71% and 90% respondents believe a treatment plan is highly recommended in the perioperative setting.

**Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing:** Application of the updated standardized process can assist the perianesthesia team to provide safe and efficient care while taking care of patients with corneal abrasions.