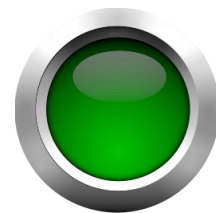


Lateral canthotomy SOP

Further reading

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tgQaKVGynFA>
<https://www.resus.com.au/lateral-canthotomy/>
<https://emedicine.medscape.com/article/82812-overview>



Related SOPs

Traumatic brain injury SOP

Lidocaine SOP

Definition

A procedure to release orbital compartment syndrome from a retrobulbar haematoma by creating incisions to allow the eye to move forward.

This releases pressure on the optic nerve preventing ischaemia and visual loss.

Indications

Suspected orbital compartment syndrome:

- Proptosis
- +/- Decreased visual acuity

Exclusions

Globe rupture

Equipment

- Lidocaine if required
- Spencer wells or small spencer wells from the fine suture pack
- Scissors from the fine suture pack

Lateral canthotomy SOP

1

Consider local anaesthetic – 1-2mls of 2% lidocaine subcutaneously at the lateral canthus

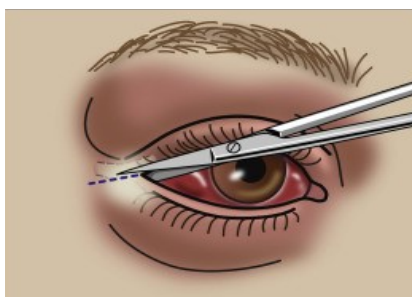
2

Crush lateral canthus with spencer wells to devascularise area – leave clamped for 1 min



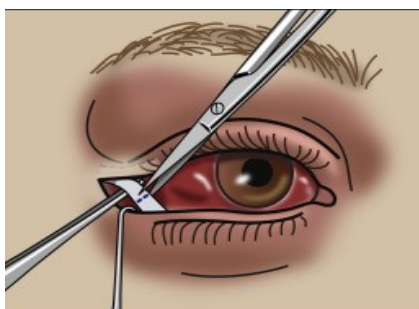
3

Using surgical scissors, cut lateral canthus towards the lateral orbital rim



4

Retract the lower lid and cut the inferior crus of the lateral canthal ligament



5

If necessary (because the eye hasn't moved forwards with the above measures), also cut the superior crus