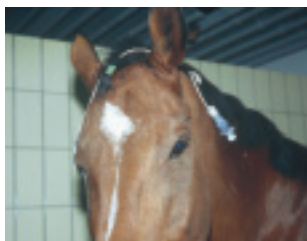


PRACTICAL TIPS

OCULAR LAVAGE TECHNIQUE



Indwelling ocular lavage set allows repeated flushing of the eye with minimum discomfort to the patient and operator.

Step One

Always use a trocar (size matched to the size of the lavage tubing) to implant the lavage catheter. Do not pass the catheter through a hollow needle, for the conjunctival hole will be too large and the foot plate may pull through.

Step Two

Be sure to make a clean entry at the 12 o'clock conjunctival fornix. Avoid lateral movements of the trocar which could result in a radial conjunctival tear as the foot plate may pull through.

Step Three

Once the conjunctival fornix is penetrated, then tunnel the trocar just over the edge of the orbital rim and travel about 1.0–2.0 cm before exiting the skin.

Make sure the foot plate is seated and aligned in the fornix.

Step Four

Dry the tubing before applying duct adhesive tape or similar. Apply tape across the tubing exactly where the tubing exits the skin. Use a piece that is about 2.0 cm wide and apply it so it overlaps on itself, resulting in a 'wing' of tape on each side of the tubing. These two 'wings' will be used to anchor the tubing to the skin with sutures or surgical staples.

Step Five

The proximal edge of the tape should be against the skin exactly where the tube exits and the tape should be placed on the tubing while a slight amount of traction is applied to the tube to ensure that the foot plate is snug in the fornix.

Rub a smooth instrument on the surface of the tape where it comes in contact with the tubing to assure adhesion.

Step Six

Use 2/0 or 3/0 monofilament nylon or polypropylene suture. Take full thickness skin bites and about 1.0 cm wide. Do not over tighten to prevent premature pull through of the suture. A snug but not tight fit is the best.

Step Seven

The section of tubing distal to the first piece of tape should be slackened to form an 'S' shape for strain relief. The next 'wing' of tape should be applied just distal to the 'S'; usually this is on the forehead.

The tube then travels to the opposite site between the forelock and ear and is anchored with tape and sutured on the poll.

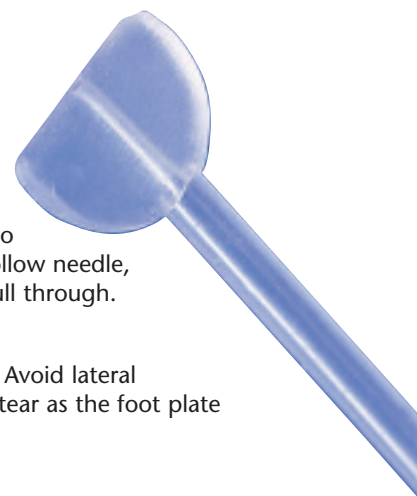
Use the 8 French tubing if you plan to infuse a thicker medication, i.e. methycellulose base. The 8 French tube has a smaller ratio of tube outside diameter to width of foot plate, therefore there is a greater chance of conjunctival pull through if a radial tear in the conjunctiva is created at the time of implantation.

Step Eight

The lavage catheter was designed to remain in place for two to three weeks – any longer could result in infection, dislodgment or granuloma formation. If longer therapy is needed, the veterinarian should consider replacement of the lavage catheter with a new one. If the latter is done, the entry site should be far enough away from the first site to avoid creating a conjunctival hole that is too large, which could result in pull through of the foot plate.

Step Nine

The sutures should be checked at least twice a week, especially after the first 10 days, since it is common for the sutures to work their way out. If the sutures or tape are loose or coming off they should be replaced.



REFERENCES

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