



**COMBAT MEDIC/CORPSMAN**  
**TACTICAL COMBAT CASUALTY CARE**

**MODULE 14:**  
**EYE INJURIES**  
**SKILL INSTRUCTIONS**

**24 JAN 2021**



**Committee on  
Tactical Combat  
Casualty Care  
(CoTCCC)**

## PENETRATING EYE INJURY INSTRUCTION

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| <b>TASK:</b>      | Treat a penetrating eye injury  |
| <b>CONDITION:</b> | Given a Tactical Field Care scenario where the casualty and responder are in combat gear and the casualty has a penetrating eye injury and you have a Joint First Aid Kit (JFAK) or the necessary materials |
| <b>STANDARD:</b>  | Treat the casualty's eye injury following all steps and meeting all performance measures without causing further injury to the casualty   |
| <b>EQUIPMENT:</b> | JFAK or materials that could be used to make an eye shield  |

### PERFORMANCE MEASURES: step-by-step instructions

**NOTE:** Consider body substance isolation.

**NOTE:** If a Combat Lifesaver is available, direct them to assist.

- 01** Place the casualty in a comfortable position, one that allows you access to their eyes (head).  
**NOTE:** Remove their headgear, if necessary.
- 02** Examine the eyes for any deformities, contusions, abrasions, penetrating objects, bruising (black eye(s)), lacerations, or swelling.  
**NOTE:** Even if a penetrating wound is not obvious, treat any swelling or abrasions as this type of eye injury.
- 03** Perform a rapid field test of visual acuity (see Eye Trauma Visual Acuity Test Instruction).
- 04** Cover the casualty's injured eye with a rigid eye shield (**not** a pressure patch).  
**NOTE:** Do **not** cover the unaffected eye (unless it is also injured).  
**CAUTION:** Ensure that the rigid eye shield or improvised object is not in contact with the contents of the eye socket or exerting any pressure on the eye. If the eye shield exerts pressure, use an improvised eye shield.
- 05** Secure the rigid eye shield with tape at a 45-degree angle across the forehead and cheek.
- 06** Ensure that the antibiotic tablet in the Combat Wound Medication Pack (CWMP) is taken. If unable to take the oral antibiotic in the CWMP, then administer intravenous or intramuscular antibiotics as outlined (see Antibiotic Administration Instruction).
- 07** Document all findings and treatments on a DD Form 1380 TCCC Casualty Card and attach it to the casualty.

## EYE TRAUMA RAPID FIELD TEST OF VISUAL ACUITY INSTRUCTION

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| <b>TASK:</b>      | Perform a rapid field test of visual acuity  |
| <b>CONDITION:</b> | While in the Tactical Field Care phase with a casualty with an eye injury  |
| <b>STANDARD:</b>  | Perform a rapid field test of visual acuity and document all findings without causing further harm to the casualty |
| <b>EQUIPMENT:</b> | Name tag, Meal Ready-to-Eat wrapper, bandage wrapper, or similar materials   |

### PERFORMANCE MEASURES: step-by-step instructions

**NOTE:** Consider body substance isolation.

**NOTE:** If a Combat Lifesaver is available, direct them to assist.

- 01** Have the casualty cover the unaffected eye.
- 02** At an **arm's length**, assess the casualty's ability to:
  - (a) Read something with text on it (that you hold up).  
**NOTE:** If the casualty is unable, follow the next step.
  - (b) Count fingers.  
**NOTE:** If the casualty is unable, follow the next step.
  - (c) Identify hand motion.  
**NOTE:** If the casualty is unable, follow the next step.
  - (d) Identify light versus dark.
- 03** Repeat the procedure for the other eye.  
**NOTE:** Do not force open a swollen eye to conduct a field visual acuity test.
- 04** Determine acuity assessment findings based on what the casualty can see (e.g., can count fingers at 2 feet).
- 05** Document all findings and treatments on a DD Form 1380 TCCC Casualty Card and attach it to the casualty.

Developed by the

# **JOINT TRAUMA SYSTEM**

A Combat Support Division of the



DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY