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COVID 19: Elective Case Triage Guidelines for Surgical Care

Ophthalmology

The American Academy of Ophthalmology has released [recommendations regarding urgent and nonurgent patient care](#). According to the statement, all ophthalmologists should cease providing any treatment other than urgent or emergent care immediately. This includes both office-based care and surgical care. For specific procedures, see table below.

Surgical Procedure	Indications
Biopsy of orbit	Suspected intraocular malignancy or immediate sight-threatening condition
Brachytherapy	Intraocular malignancy
Cantholysis	Sight-threatening conditions
Canthotomy	Sight-threatening conditions
Cataract surgery	Congenital cataract in the amblyopic period, monocular patients with documented vision loss precluding driving, reading or self-care, lens-induced glaucoma, angle-closure glaucoma, acute lens complications, or severe anisometropia of fellow eye post recent lens extraction in first eye
Closure of cyclodialysis cleft	Sight-threatening hypotony due to trauma
Corneal transplantation	Pediatric patients with corneal blindness in both eyes in their amblyopic period
Decompression of dacryoceles	Neonate with obstructive respiratory compromise
Decompression of orbit	Orbital tumor with impending vision loss
Drainage of abscess	Orbital cellulitis
Drainage of choroidals	Appositional choroidal effusion, suprachoroidal hemorrhage, or flat anterior chamber
Enucleation	Ocular trauma, infection, intractable glaucoma, globe perforation, intractable pain, or intraocular malignancy
Evisceration	Sight-threatening infection, or intractable pain
Examination under anesthesia	Pediatric patients with retinoblastoma, endophthalmitis, Coats Disease, uveitis, glaucoma, ocular trauma, retinal detachment, or presumed intraocular foreign body
Excision of tumors	Malignancy or sight-threatening tumor
Exenteration	Life-threatening infection

Exploration of orbit	Life-threatening or sight-threatening conditions
Fenestration of optic nerve sheath	Progressive vision loss
Filtration surgery	Uncontrolled intraocular pressure that is sight-threatening who are poor candidates for trabeculectomy or aqueous tube shunts
Frontalis sling	Sight-threatening congenital ptosis
Goniotomy ab externo or ab interno	Uncontrolled intraocular pressure that is sight-threatening
Insertion of drainage implant with or without graft	Catastrophic or rapidly progressive glaucoma
Laser indirect retinopexy – complex	Retinal detachment, retinal tear, or ocular trauma
Laser photocoagulation	Pediatric patients with retinopathy of prematurity (if this can't be in NICU)
Pars plana lensectomy	Acute lens complications
Peeling of membrane/internal limiting membrane	Proliferative diabetic retinopathy, proliferative vitreoretinopathy, complex preretinal membrane, complex macular pathology, or macular hole
Pneumatic retinopexy	Retinal detachment
Probing of nasolacrimal duct	Dacryocystocele
Reconstruction of ocular surface or other tectonic procedures	Acute chemical injury, or acute Stevens Johnson Syndrome
Removal of aqueous drainage implant	Endophthalmitis, corneal touch, corneal decompensation, or exposed plate
Removal of intraocular foreign body	Presumed intraocular foreign body
Repair of anterior segment or cornea	Lacerations, blunt rupture, or deeply embedded corneal foreign body
Repair of canalicular laceration	Injury or trauma to their canaliculus
Repair of dehiscence of corneal graft or other anterior segment wound	Wound dehiscence or other wounds, including dislocated LASIK flaps
Repair of extrusion or complication of keratoprosthesis	Complications with implanted devices in their cornea or anterior segment
Repair of eyelid/face	Lacerations of eyelid or face
Repair of facial fractures	Displaced facial bone fractures
Repair of open globe	Ocular trauma
Repair of operative wound(s)	Bleb leaks, wound leaks, overfiltration, underfiltration, bleb scarring, sight-threatening hypotony, or shallow anterior chamber
Repair of orbital fracture	Hemodynamic instability or oculocardiac reflex
Repair of perforation or impending perforation of cornea or sclera	Corneal and scleral injury or trauma
Retrobulbar injection	Pain due to ocular diseases causing significant compromise of quality of life
Revision of drainage implant with or without graft	Implant/tube exposure that might be sight threatening, endophthalmitis, malpositioned tube endangering eye or excessive inflammation, a tube that might worsen vision due to corneal edema or iritis or cystoid macular

	edema, or with a severe tube malposition causing rapid visual loss
Scleral buckle	Retinal detachment, ocular trauma, intraocular infection, vitreous hemorrhage, retinal tear, or intraocular foreign body
Synechiolysis	Lens-induced glaucoma or angle-closure glaucoma
Tarsorrhaphy	Impending corneal compromise
Trabeculectomy with or without scarring	Catastrophic or rapidly progressive glaucoma and markedly elevated intraocular pressure, or uncontrolled secondary or primary glaucoma
Trabeculotomy	Uncontrolled intraocular pressure that is sight-threatening
Transscleral cyclophotocoagulation	Uncontrolled glaucoma or absolute glaucoma with a blind and painful eye
Vitrectomy	Retinal detachment, ocular trauma, intraocular infection, vitreous hemorrhage, retinal tear, intraocular foreign body, misdirected aqueous, ciliary block glaucoma, malignant glaucoma, a vitreous prolapse, or a tube shunt that blocks filtration
Washout of the anterior chamber	Hyphema that is sight-threatening

Updated March 27, 2020