

# Eye injuries



**IN A MEDICAL EMERGENCY CALL TRIPLE ZERO (000) FOR AN AMBULANCE.**

**DRSABCD** Danger ▶ Response ▶ Send for help ▶ Airway ▶ Breathing ▶ CPR ▶ Defibrillation

The DRSABCD Action Plan is the first step when providing first aid. Use this to assess the immediate situation.

## WARNING

- Act with extreme urgency (within seconds) if it is a heat or chemical burn.
- Do not touch the eye or contact lens.
- Do not allow the patient to rub the eye.
- Do not try to remove any object that is embedded in or penetrating from the eye.
- Do not persist in examining the eye if the injury is severe.
- Do not apply pressure when bandaging the eye.

## SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- pain
- redness
- wateriness
- sensitivity to light
- swollen or spasming eyelids
- bleeding
- inability to open the eye
- injuries around the eye

## WHAT TO DO

- 1 Follow DRSABCD.
- 2 DO NOT try to remove an object that is embedded in, or protruding from, the eye.
- 3 Cover the injured eye only, with one or more sterile pads, avoiding any protruding object.
- 4 DO NOT put direct pressure on the eyeball.
- 5 Help the patient to lie down in a comfortable position on their back.
- 6 Ask the patient to try not to move their eyes.
- 7 Seek medical aid.

**FIND OUT MORE AT [WWW.STJOHN.ORG.AU](http://WWW.STJOHN.ORG.AU) 1300 ST JOHN**