

My Notes & Procedures

By

Lakshmi Devi, N.Z.R.N.; R.M.

Ophthalmic Nursing Series (III)

Eye Bandages

The bandage most commonly used is the 2" roller bandage. The full length of the bandage should be used and should be applied firmly but not tightly. The bandage should be firm enough to keep eyelid closed.

If both eyes require to be bandaged, a 2" bandage is applied as a "figure of eight".

Moorfields Bandage is easy to apply and remove, and means disturbing the patient less. The bandage consists of a piece of linen, 6" x 2", with a small notch cut out of the lower edge to allow for the nose; tape is sewn to the four corners which join behind the ear to form a single tape on each side. The single tapes circle the head and tie on the forehead.

Book Muslin. A book-muslin bandage is often used as a post-operative bandage. The ears are protected with cotton wool and the bandage is applied wet. It sets firmly when dry and forms a good protection to the eye against inadvertent rubbing.

Other eye coverings are also used such as:

Eye shades. Plastic, celluloid and silk shades.

Dark Glasses. Provide protection against strong light and are also used post-operatively.

Artificial Eyes. Are usually worn after the loss of an eye; the common-

est types being the Shell and the Snellen eye. The eye socket requires to be completely healed and free from any discharge before the artificial eye can be worn. The patient needs instruction about the insertion and removal of the eye as well as care of the socket.

Special points to observe when carrying out treatments. When both eyes are covered, or when the uncovered eye is blind, the patient is unaware of what a nurse is about to do, and a running commentary of your actions e.g., "I am now going to bathe your eye", will do much to prevent the patient being startled and so avoid likely injury to his eye.

When attending to the eyes of children, it is as well to have assistance.

All dressings must be done under aseptic conditions.

When instructing patient to shut his eyes, he should be told to "close gently as if going to sleep".

When "scrubbing-up" do not rinse hands in antiseptic unless hands are to be dried before attending to the patient.

Gentleness and a light touch are most desirable in all ophthalmic nursing care. This special branch of nursing is not for the unskilled, the clumsy or the uninstructed person.