

VAQ 2011.1.4 (Photo)

An 80 year old man presents to the emergency department after a fall. He is on warfarin following an aortic valve replacement.

His observations are:

GCS	15		
HR	80	/min	
BP	130/70	mmHg	
O ₂ Saturation	98	%	on 2L/min nasal oxygen



Describe and interpret his photograph (100%)

This is an anticoagulated patient with a sight threatening eye injury. He also has head and facial injuries which are likely to need further assessment but GCS 15 with normal P/BP. He is likely to require reversal of anticoagulation and urgent ophthalmology review.

Picture of part of face

- centred on right eye
- nasal oxygen
- cotton bud to evert lower right eyelid
- bilateral periorbital ecchymosis
- steristrips to forehead laceration
- apparent laceration to right globe involving cornea
- subconjunctival haemorrhage
- globe not collapsed
- pupil margin ill-defined, appears dilated
- suggestion of hyphaema but not well visualised due to overlying blood over cornea, conjunctiva
- non-clotted blood suggesting ongoing bleed or anticoagulation

These findings are suggestive of

- corneal +/- conjunctival laceration concerning for globe rupture
- anticoagulation with associated increased bleeding risk
- probable anterior chamber involvement
- head injury with facial ecchymosis suggestive of basal skull fracture or orbital fracture requiring further assessment in context of age, anticoagulation
- facial lacerations