

VAQ 2011.2.1 (Photo)

A 4 year old boy is brought to your emergency department following an injury sustained to his right eye from a small rubber ball thrown by his brother earlier that day.



- Describe and interpret his photograph (30%)
- His mother asks you; "What are the possible complications". Outline your response ` (70%)

Photo of upper face of child including both eyes

left eye unremarkable

right eye

approx 20-25% layered blood in anterior chamber consistent with hyphaema

mild conjunctival erythema

mild upper lid droop

minor abrasion/contusion to upper lid

Pupil appears similar size to opposite side

Globe grossly intact

Consistent with blunt injury to right eye with traumatic hyphaema and minor blunt injury to conjunctiva and adjacent upper lid. No traumatic meiosis or laceration is seen.

Complications

dialogue should ensure presented at appropriate level for mother

needs ophthalmology consultation and ongoing management

possible complications – serious complications are rare in this injury and good outcome is expected

early

rebleeding causing worsening of injury

traumatic miosis (pupil spasm) causing pain

traumatic mydriasis (pupil nerve damage) which may take a long time to heal and leave the pupil larger than normal

abrasion (scratch) or laceration (cut) on surface of eye needs to be examined for

early pressure rise from bleeding (glaucoma) can be sight threatening

late

sight loss or reduction from injury or rebleed

increased pressure (glaucoma) in front of eye from interference with drainage

sight loss and need for medications or operation

sympathetic ophthalmitis (immune reaction to eye injury affecting other eye) is extremely rare

retinal detachment causing sight loss