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Efficacy of cycloplegic agent for pain control in corneal abrasion and ulcer: Evidence based case report

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Introduction & Objective: Corneal abrasion and ulcer are common conditions following trauma to the eye. Most patients seek treatment in the Emergency Room for managing the pain. Topical cycloplegic drugs have been used to help patients relieve pain in the eye. Despite its common usage, there is no evidence of its efficacy for pain management. This review aimed to evaluate the use of cycloplegic agents as one kind of pain reliever in corneal abrasion and ulcer cases.

Method: We conduct a computer-based search from several online databases such as Medline, Scopus and Cochrane. We limit included studies to those written in English and had human participants. Studies were considered eligible if it compared the effect of cycloplegics with other topical analgesics.

Results: Two studies were eligible for this review and all of them were RCTs. One study reported no significant difference in VAS pain rating between cycloplegics and placebo. The other study reported that NSAIDs significantly decreased pain compared to cycloplegics.

Conclusion: This review found that there is still no conclusive evidence about the efficacy of cycloplegics for reducing pain in corneal abrasions and ulcers. It is advised to further study the benefits of cycloplegics as pain reliever compared to other topical analysesics.

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