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| PROCEDURE # 945.8004 |
| PH OF LACRIMAL FLUID OF THE EYE |

| PREPARED BY | DATE ADOPTED | SUPERSEDES PROCEDURE # |
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| Dorothy Wojtylak | July, 2001 | N/A |

| REVIEW DATE | REVISION DATE | SIGNATURE |
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PROCEDURE:

pH of lacrimal fluid of the eye.

PRINCIPLE:

Nitrazine paper is brought into contact with the lacrimal fluid of the eye. The Nitrazine paper changes color based on pH of the fluid. Normal eye pH is basic.

REAGENTS:

Nitrazine paper.

OPERATORS

Physicians and nurses.

SPECIMEN:

Lacrimal fluid of the eye.

COLLECTION:

Patient Identification

- Patient is identified by asking them to state their name and date of birth and verifying this information using their identification band.
- If a patient without known identity is tested, the results are kept with the chart and identifying information is recorded once information is obtained.

MATERIALS REQUIRED:

Gloves.
Nitrazine paper.
pH buffers of 5.0 and 7.0

QUALITY CONTROL:

Quality control is performed weekly by testing personnel. The Nitrazine paper is stored in the ER. Laboratory personnel takes the buffers and the Nitrazine paper QC log to the emergency room on a weekly basis. The lot number and expiration date of the buffers recorded on the top of the log is verified. The testing personnel dips a strip of Nitrazine paper into the 5.0 buffer and then a separate strip into the 7.0 buffer. These buffers are stored in the Hematology Lab at all campuses. The lot number of the Nitrazine paper is recorded onto the log sheet. The readings for the buffers are recorded on the log. If the buffers do not read 5.0 and 7.0 repeat the test. If the buffers read 5.0 and 7.0 the Nitrazine paper may be used for testing. If the buffers do not read 5.0 and 7.0 a new reel of Nitrazine paper must be opened and tested, if the new reel reads 5.0 and 7.0, discard the old reel, and use the new reel for testing. If the buffers do not read 5.0 and 7.0, obtain new buffers from another campus. No patient testing is performed unless the buffers read 5.0 and 7.0.

PROCEDURE:

- Remove a 2 inch strip of Nitrazine paper from the reel. Touch end of the paper to the conjunctiva of the lower lid.
- Read immediately by comparing the color of the Nitrazine paper to the color scale on back of the package.



- Document the result in Wellsoft computer program.

REAGENT STORAGE:

Nitrazine paper is stored at room temperature (15 to 30 degrees) in the original container with the foil sealing the roll.

LIMITATIONS OF THE PROCEDURE:

Nitrazine strips are sensitive to light and moisture so they must be stored properly.

REFERENCES:

Deacon labs incorporated package insert.