

Iatrogenic bilateral eyelid ecchymosis

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A 63 year-old male patient was scheduled for a VATS lung biopsy. He was intubated and the anaesthetist put soft surgical tape on his eyes. After an uneventful procedure, the patient was extubated. A few hours later, he presented with bilateral eyelid ecchymosis. (Figure 1) His vision was not impaired. He was treated with artificial tears and warm compresses. The ecchymosis resolved two weeks later.

Possible causes of bilateral ecchymosis are fracture of the base of the skull, blunt trauma of the skull and boxer's injury. The usual practice of anaesthetists and surgical nurses is the placement of tape on the eyes in order to keep them closed during general anaesthesia.



FIGURE. Postoperative eyelid ecchymosis

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