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The Vision in Preschoolers Study Group. Comparison of Preschool Vision Screening Tests as Administered by Licensed Eye Care Professionals in the Vision in Preschoolers Study. *Ophthalmology* 2004;111:637-650. Preschool Vision Screening Tests Administered by Nurse Screeners Compared with Lay Screeners in the Vision in Preschoolers Study. *Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci* 2005;46:2639-2648.

Cycloplegic/Mydriatic Drop Instillation

What Are You Testing?

Cycloplegic retinoscopy and binocular indirect ophthalmoscopy require prior instillation of cycloplegic/mydriatic drops. This procedure describes the technique of eye drop instillation.

What You Need to Do the Test:

1. A bottle of VIP combination drops.
2. A box of tissues.
3. An assistant, if available.
4. A washable toy for the child to hold during eye drop instillation.

Getting Ready:

1. Wash your hands or use an antibacterial wipe prior to and after eye drop instillation.
2. Give the child a toy to hold and have him/her lie down on the Freeman flip-top seat looking up towards the ceiling.

How You Do the Procedure:

1. If the anterior chamber is too shallow, do **not** administer drops. Indicate on the data form that no drops were given.
2. Grasp the child's top and bottom eyelids with your fingers and quickly instill one combination drop in each of the child's eyes. Wipe any excess drops or tears on the child's cheek with a tissue.
3. The hand holding the bottle should be braced on the child's forehead.
4. If available, have an assistant hold the child's head or hands.
5. Twenty to thirty seconds later follow with a second combination drop in each eye, while pressing your finger on the child's lower punctum to minimize systemic absorption. Wipe any excess drops or tears on the child's cheek with a tissue. **This second drop is not optional.**
6. Retinoscopy should occur in 30-40 minutes after the last drop.

What You Tell the Child:

1. Tell the child to look up at the ceiling.
2. Tell the child that you are going to place an eye drop in his/her eye.
3. Tell the child that he/she may briefly feel the first eye drop.

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4. Prior to the instillation of the second drop, repeat the instruction to the child to keep looking up at the ceiling.

What You Write Down:

1. Indicate the drops that were administered to each eye.
2. Write down the time that the last drop was instilled.
3. Indicate on the data form if no drops were given.

Remember!

1. Block the punctum and wipe any excess tears or eye drops with the tissue.
2. Instill the eye drops quickly.