

OPTOMETRY SCOPE MODERNIZATION



ALBERTA college
of OPTOMETRISTS

Injections & Minor Surgical Procedures

The modernized scope of practice for Doctors of Optometry includes injections and minor surgical procedures on and near the eye.

Minor surgical procedures are performed with scissors, blade or radio frequency (in-office) under local anesthesia (topical and injectable) for the removal of benign minor skin lesions such as: skin tags, papilloma, verrucae, seborrheic keratosis, cyst of moll, cyst of Zeiss, sebaceous cyst, epidermal inclusion cyst and incision/curettage of chalazion.

The preferred surgical technique is left to the professional judgment of the practitioner based on the patient's condition and potential for a positive health outcome. All suspicious lesions must be biopsied and sent to a lab for analysis. All malignant lesions must be referred to a physician.

Authorization for Doctors of Optometry to perform minor surgical procedures helps prevent patients from potentially harming themselves with over-the-counter products that contain flammable and combustible dimethyl ether and propane (e.g. Dr. Scholl's Skin Tag and Wart Removal). Applied incorrectly, these products can damage healthy peri-ocular and ocular tissue.

All minor surgical procedures are for superficial, non- intraocular conditions that are performed under local anesthesia (topical and injectable). None of the procedures require general anesthesia.

Verrucae



Before

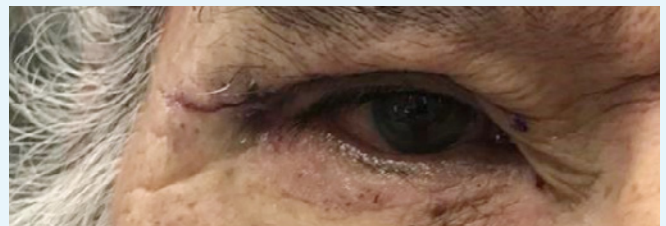


After

Epidermal Inclusion Cyst



Before



After

Images courtesy of NSU College of Optometry

FACT SHEET

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT

collegeofoptometrists.ab.ca

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