

INTRAOPERATIVE ENUCLEATION CONSIDERATIONS

When performing a surgery of this nature; three main aspects must be addressed namely restraint, pain management and anti-infective care. Since enucleation is somewhat relatively simple to perform; these elements are essential for making them uncomplicated.

- Appropriate and adequate methods of restraint must be taken to ensure the safety of both handler and animal. Squeeze chutes, head/nose bars, nose tongues and halter should be used if available. In addition, chemical restraint is a vital tool as it minimizes the need for physical restraint; therefore the use of sedatives such as Xylazine can be used which leads to the next consideration.
- Pain management prior, during and post-operatively must be taken into account for this procedure. Not only is this an animal welfare issue but it also renders the animal more manageable during the process.
- One should ensure the efficacy of the local anesthesia and you do this by checking for the palpebral reflex which will indicate if the area of interest is fully anaesthetized.
- In similarity to other invasive procedures, possible infection is a top consideration. In order to avoid infection firstly cleanliness of the tools and operator is necessary and in cases where multiple animals are operated on, it helps to prevent the spread of diseases.
- Another consideration is the approach the personnel would take with regards to the surgery. The approach is determined by the severity of problem associated with the eye. If the eye is infected then you would use the transpalpebral approach while if it is contaminated then you would use the subconjunctival approach.
- Hemorrhage is another major concern. Although if done correctly this procedure should not result in massive bleeding even though there is still a risk due to inexperienced operators and clotting disorders of the animal and thus apparatus such as hemostats and gauze should be readily available. The operator should ligate the blood vessels.
- Another important concern while doing the procedure is to damage or over pull of the optic nerve. This is important because activation of this nerve will cause a vago-vagal response resulting in the animal being severely bradychardia which would have been initiated by perioperative analgesics.
- After completing the surgery the operator should tightly suture the site with appropriate suture material and technique. The skin incision can be closed in a variety of patterns with a nonabsorbable suture such as No. 3 nylon. Common patterns include the Ford interlocking, cruciate or simple continuous.