



REMOVAL OF THE
NICTITANS
MEMBRANE
(THIRD EYELID)



Indications

The third eyelid is removed when diseased, most commonly due to squamous cell carcinoma.

The nictitans membrane can be easily removed once all other structures are unaffected.

Resection of the nictitans membrane usually involves removal of the affected tissue

Preoperative Measures

Restraint

- A standing chute may be conveniently used
- Lateral recumbency may also be used if necessary
- Head restraint is essential and must be done properly to prevent trauma

Sedation and Analgesia

- can be induced via IV administration

Presurgical Preparation

- The orbital area should be properly cleansed while protecting the eye from any irritating solutions that may be used
- The eye should be flushed with sterile saline

Anesthesia

- topical anesthetic agents may be used on the cornea
- local anesthetic (2% lidocaine) should be administered to the base of the third eyelid

Intra-operative Measures – Surgical Technique

1. Using forceps, grasp the third eyelid
2. Place two forceps or hemostats between the lesion and the base of the third eyelid to ensure the entire membrane is clamped
3. Remove the lesion using scissors or scalpel. Cut along the edge of the forceps.
4. Leave the hemostats for about 1 minute to allow hemostasis, then remove.

Postoperative Management

- Flush the eye with sterile solutions to remove any blood or debris
- Antibiotic ointment is not necessary but may be used
- Keep the animal away from wind, dust and bright sunlight for a few hours. This prevents keratitis.
- Examine the cow closely other lesions or manifestation of new lesions.

Prognosis

- Prognosis for this procedure is usually good

Possible Complications:

- tumor affecting deeper tissues that does not allow complete resection

