

Slit lamp (stereo microscope) steps

Indications

1. corneal abrasion
2. corneal foreign body
3. iritis

Technique

1. Adjust table height for patient comfort
2. Align eye level marker (black line) with outer canthus
3. Have patient place chin in chinrest and forehead firmly against headrest
4. Turn on/off switch to “on” position
5. Place microscope directly across from patient’s eye
6. Place light source at a 45 degree angle to patient’s eye and leave in this position
- 7. Setup 1 – Screening**
8. Place magnification at 10X (initially)
9. Place light color on white
10. Beam height maximum
11. Beam width minimum
12. Inspect the following structures (10X)
 - a. Conjunctiva
 - b. Sclera
 - c. Iris
 - d. Cornea
 - e. Anterior chamber depth
 - f. Lids/Lashes
 - g. Lid eversion
- 13. Setup 2 – Fluorescein Stain for epithelial defect**
14. Place light color on blue
15. Widen the beam to 4mm
16. Apply fluorescein
17. Inspect cornea for epithelial defects
18. May create a fluorescein “haze”
- 19. Setup 3 – Anterior Chamber**
20. Beam height at 3mm
21. Beam width at minimum
22. Place magnification at 16X or 25X
23. Center beam on center of cornea
24. Focus beam on lens
25. Using joystick, move focus point midway between lens and cornea
26. Keep beam centered over cornea to maintain a black background
 - a. Search for floating cells
 - b. Search for “haze” in anterior chamber