

**North Carolina State University
College of Veterinary Medicine
Equine Ophthalmology Service**

**PROPER CARE AND USE OF A
SUBPALPEBRAL LAVAGE CATHETER**

The subpalpebral lavage catheter is a device designed to help horse owners give eye medications that have been prescribed by their veterinarian or veterinary ophthalmologist. It is very important to always follow instructions carefully and thoroughly. There are also a few things that should be done to maintain the lavage and ensure that it continues to work properly.

1. Always give medications one at a time. **DO NOT** combine medications.
2. Follow each medication with 3 or 4 cc's of air. This pushes the medication through the tubing and into the eye. You will notice the horse blink when the medication reaches the eye.
3. Wait **5 minutes** between each medication. This is necessary in order for each medication to be absorbed by the eye. If medications are given too closely together, each one will "wash out" the previous one before it can do its job.
4. Always use a new, clean needle and syringe for each medication. Re-using syringes or needles can contaminate the lavage with bacteria, which will cause further damage to the eye.
5. Wipe the injection port (the rubber part that the needle is inserted into) with an alcohol soaked cotton ball before each medication. This also helps prevent contamination of the lavage system.
6. Check the tubing each day to make sure that it is still properly fastened to the horse's mane. Loose and dangling tubing tends to snag on objects and this can cause the lavage to break or pull through the eyelid.
7. If any parts of the lavage become worn, dirty or break, please contact us for instructions.

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