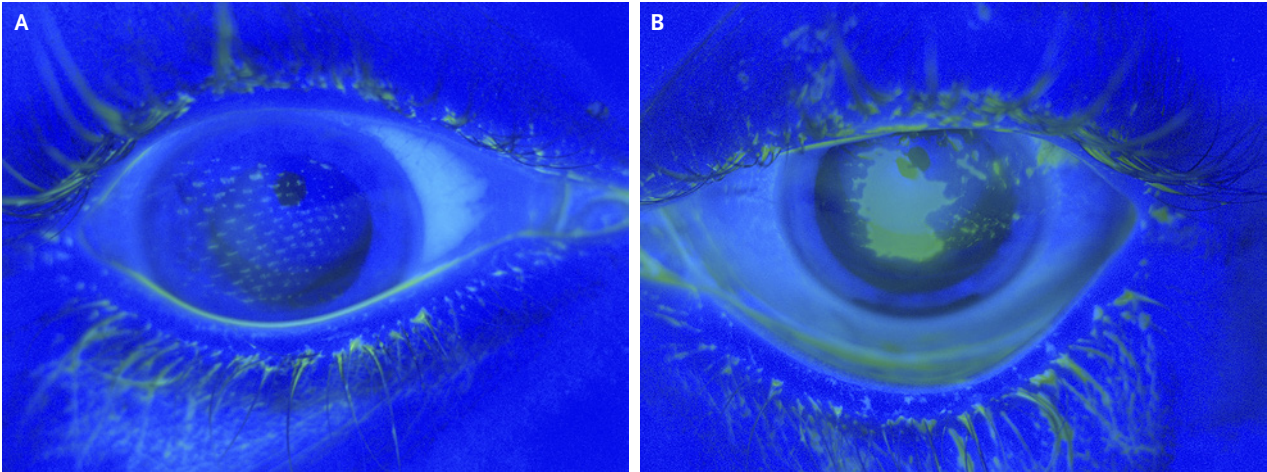


IMAGES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE

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## Bilateral Corneal Abrasions from Airbag Deployment



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A 17-YEAR-OLD GIRL PRESENTED TO THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT WITH blurred vision and the sensation of a foreign body in both eyes immediately after being in a motor vehicle accident in which airbags were deployed. The patient, a passenger, was wearing a seatbelt when the vehicle she was in rear-ended a rapidly decelerating car on a freeway. She sustained no other injuries, and no other occupants of the vehicle were injured. Her visual acuity was 20/20 in the right eye and 20/25 in the left eye. Fluorescein staining of the cornea viewed under illumination through a cobalt blue filter revealed an imprint of the nylon mesh pattern of the airbag cover on the corneal surface of the right eye (Panel A) and a corneal abrasion in the left eye (Panel B). There was also a small hyphema in the left anterior chamber. The patient was treated with erythromycin ointment, and the corneal abrasions completely resolved within 24 hours. After 2 weeks, the hyphema had resolved, and the patient had 20/20 visual acuity in each eye. Corneal abrasion and hyphema can be concussive eye injuries resulting from airbag deployment.

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