



US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
BLAST INJURY RESEARCH PROGRAM
COORDINATING OFFICE

Treatment Strategies

Vision Center of Excellence (VCE)-Joint Pathology Center Fact Sheet

Embedded foreign bodies in and around the eye and orbit are common sequelae of the modern battlefield, particularly with respect to blast injuries. The composition of those retained foreign bodies, particularly if iron or copper, can affect treatment and visual outcomes. Until recently, no pathway existed for providing such a compositional analysis. Researchers at VCE in collaboration with the Department of Defense (DoD) Joint Pathology Center developed a multi-service/multi-organizationally vetted pathway for sophisticated compositional analysis of orbital, peri-orbital, and intraocular foreign bodies. This pathway addresses the recognized clinical gap in addition to bringing ocular foreign body management in line with Assistant Secretary of Defense Affairs for Health Affairs (ASD(HA)) Policy Memorandum 07-029 "Policy on Analysis of Metal Fragments Removed from Department of Defense Personnel."¹ While specifically aimed at DoD ophthalmic providers, the service is available to VA facilities as well, though interagency fees may apply. The pathway is currently presented as a joint VCE-Joint Pathology Center Fact Sheet and is being distributed.

¹ Assistant Secretary of Defense. Policy on Analysis of Metal Fragments Removed from Department of Defense Personnel. (2007). <http://www.health.mil/~media/MHS/Policy%20Files/Import/07-029.ashx>

