

Surgical Prep: Betadine Used For An Eye Procedure.

The patient, an elderly WWII veteran, checked into the local VA Hospital for eyelid surgery.

Known as blepharoplasty, the procedure is usually considered an elective cosmetic procedure done to improve the appearance of the patient's face. However, an ophthalmic surgeon recommended the procedure to this patient to remove sagging skin around his eyes to improve his peripheral vision. His visual acuity was 20/40 and 20/30 before the procedure.

During the procedure the patient suffered chemical burns to the corneas of both eyes resulting in corneal edema.

The US District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi ruled the medical evidence supported the conclusion that the problem was caused by the Betadine surgical prep getting into his eyes.

According to the court, the prep for eye surgery should be done with 10% Betadine solution diluted with sterile water to 5%. Full-strength Betadine surgical prep should never be used for the eyes, the court said. **West v. US, 2009 WL 2169852 (S.D. Miss., July 20, 2009).**