

Bovine Eye Removal Surgery

Enucleation

Surgical Technique

Following surgical preparation, the patient's eyelids are sutured together and the suture ends are left long. Sutures provide a better seal from necrotic debris than towel clamps. Using these methods, the instruments or ends of the sutures can be used to put traction on the eye throughout surgery.

A transpalpebral incision is made around the orbit, leaving as much normal tissue as possible. The incision is generally 5mm from the margin of the eyelid. The ventral incision and subsequent dissection are done first. Blunt dissection is used for 360° around the orbit continuing down to the caudal aspect of the orbit, but avoiding entrance through the palpebral conjunctiva. All muscles, adipose tissue, the lacrimal gland, and fascia are removed, along with the eyelids and eyeball. If the indication for enucleation is neoplasia, then one must make sure that all neoplastic tissue is removed. If the eye is enucleated for a non-neoplastic condition, such as irreparable trauma, then the surgeon can afford to leave some of the retrobulbar tissue, to reduce the amount of dead space and intraoperative haemorrhage. The cavity fills with a blood clot that will organize during the healing period and will leave a large depression in the orbit.

Closure consists of a layer of simple continuous sutures in the subcutaneous tissue using 2-0 absorbable suture material and the skin is sutured using 0 non-absorbable suture in a simple continuous or interrupted horizontal mattress pattern. Sutures are removed 10-14 days postoperatively.

Post-Op: Keep clean and spray with wound spray. Protect the patient from harsh environmental conditions and other animal for several days.

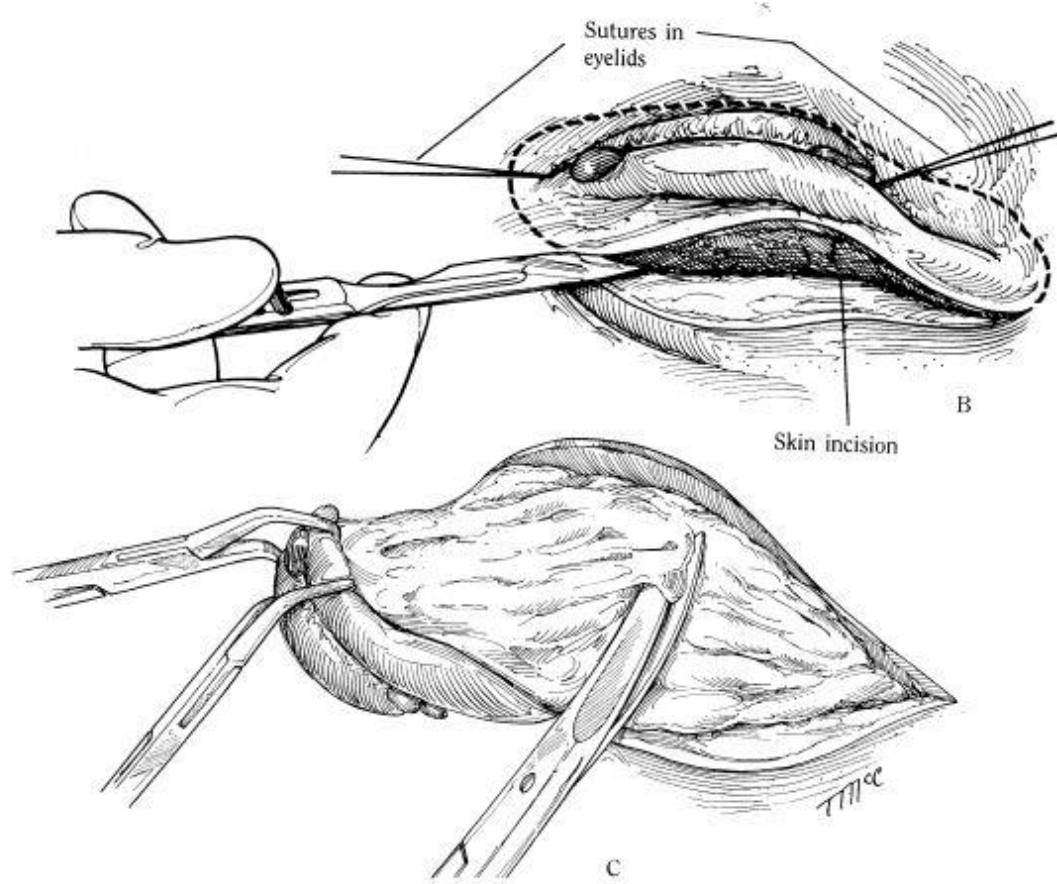


Fig. 15.2. A-D. Eye enucleation in cattle.

