REPEATABILITY AND REPRODUCIBILITY OF THE SCHIRMER TEST WITHOUT ANESTHESIA IN DRY EYE: OPEN VERSUS CLOSED EYE
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Purpose: To compare the repeatability and reproducibility of the Schirmer test (ST) when the eyes are open (STo) and closed (STc) in patients with dry eye. Methods: In a comparative, observational case series study, 31 patients were included in the study. STo and STc without anesthesia were alternately applied with 15 minutes intervals for a total of 6 times on 62 eyes of 31 patients with dry eye. The ST without anesthesia was applied 2 times with the eyes open (S1) and closed (S2) respectively by one ophthalmologist. Then, the schirmer test was repeated four times with the eyes open (S3, S5) and closed (S4, S6) respectively by one nurse using Whatman No. 41 (5x60 mm) with bended end of the paper inserted into the lateral side of the lower conjunctival fornix. Results: S1, S3, and S5 were 23.4, 23.7, 23.3, respectively. S2, S4, and S6 were 14.7, 15.6 and 16.6, respectively. STc scores were found to be statistically lower than the STo scores in general. There were no statistically significant difference between S1, S3, and S5. There were no statistically significant difference between S2, S4, and S6. Conclusions: Our study suggests that administering the ST with the patient’s eyes closed produces lower results and similar repeatability and reproducibility with STo in dry eye patients. Because of the schirmer test performed with closed eyes were lower, it would seem that it provide more reliable results than when eyes are open.