

Draize et al. Eye Irritation Scoring System¹

Lesion	Score ²
Cornea	
A. Opacity – Degree of density (area which is most dense is taken for reading)	
Scattered or diffuse area – details of iris clearly visible	1
Easily discernible translucent areas, details of iris slightly obscured	2
Opalescent areas, no details of iris visible, size of pupil barely discernible	3
Opaque, iris invisible	4
B. Area of cornea involved	
One quarter (or less) but not zero	1
Greater than one quarter but less than one-half	2
Greater than one-half but less than three quarters	3
Greater than three quarters up to whole area	4
Score equals A x B x 5 Total maximum = 80	
Iris	
A. Values	
Folds above normal, congestion, swelling, circumcorneal injection (any one or all of these or combination of any thereof), iris still reacting to light (sluggish reaction is positive)	1
No reaction to light, hemorrhage; gross destruction (any one or all of these)	2
Score equals A x 5 Total possible maximum = 10	
Conjunctiva	
A. Redness (refers to palpebral conjunctiva only)	
Vessels definitely injected above normal	1
More diffuse, deeper crimson red, individual vessels not easily discernible	2
Diffuse beefy red	3
B. Chemosis	
Any swelling above normal (includes nictitating membrane)	1
Obvious swelling with partial eversion of the lids	2
Swelling with lids about half closed	3
Swelling with lids about half closed to completely closed	4
C. Discharge	
Any amount different from normal (does not include small amount observed in inner canthus of normal rabbits)	1
Discharge with moistening of the lids and hairs just adjacent to the lids	2
Discharge with moistening of the lids and considerable area around the eye	3
Score equals (A + B + C) x 2 Total maximum = 20	

¹From Draize et al. (1944) Methods for the study of irritation and toxicity of substances applied topically to the skin and mucous membranes. J Pharmacol Exper Ther. 82:377-390.

²Scores of 0 are assigned for each parameter if the cornea, iris, or conjunctiva are normal.