

# Guide for Nurses

## For applying the “Honan Balloon”

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Honan Intraocular Pressure Reducer is to provide increased safety for intraocular surgeries.

### ***What does it do?***

Controlled preoperative ocular compression creates a lower pressure inside the eye (a soft eye) by reducing the fluid volume of the vitreous and other tissues inside the eye.

### ***How does a softer eye increase safety in surgery?***

- A softer eye reduces the tendency of the contents of the eye such as vitreous humor to bulge forward when the eye is opened for surgery.
- The eye has a “normal” pressure inside to maintain its shape. At the moment of a surgical incision the pressure inside the eye plunges suddenly down to that of atmospheric pressure. A layer of choroidal vessels lies just outside the inside retinal layer of the wall of the eyeball. Healthy resilient choroidal vessels are able to withstand the shock of the sudden drop in eye pressure. Rarely fragile aging choroidal vessels can crack and bleed when the eye pressure suddenly drops. The sudden bleeding can cause a devastating internal expulsive hemorrhage that can force the eye contents out of the surgical incision. Preoperative ocular compression can lower the intraocular pressure to reduce the shock on the choroidal vessels at the time of surgical incision in an effort to prevent hemorrhage.

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### ***Method of use***

- Tape the eyelids closed to avoid corneal abrasion.
- Apply a cotton eye pad or 4 x 4 gauze over the eye
- Apply the head strap around the back of the head
- Position the balloon over the cotton pad on the eye to be operated eye and secure the headband firmly but not tight
- Inflate the balloon to the desired pressure. Some use 30-mm mercury. A pressure of 20-mm mercury is satisfactory.
- Keep the balloon on the eye 20 minutes or longer
- The balloon may be removed to apply eye drops and reapplied
- Remove the balloon in the OR just before the surgical prep.

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