

Schirmer tear test in animals

Employed to quantify the tear production in animals.

Indications:

- Kerato-conjunctivitis sicca.
- Hypo secretion of the lacrimal gland.

Important considerations:

- Always perform the test before the eye wash or anaesthetic instillation.
- Only remove the stringy secretions with the help of a cotton swab.
- Topical anaesthesia reduces the tear production considerably.

Requirements:

- Watman filter paper No. 41.
- Test strips of filter paper as above, 5x35 mm notched at 5mm.

Procedure:

- Notched end of the test strip is folded and rounded tip is inserted into the cul-de-sac area of the lower eyelid.
- The eyelids are held closed and kept as such for 1 min.
- Measure the area of the test strip which is wet.

Evaluation:

- Normal values vary between 10-30mm (without topical anaesthesia), mostly remaining around 15mm.
- A reading between 6-10mm indicates hyposecretion.
- Value less than 5mm is indicative of Kerato-conjunctivitis sicca.