

HEALTH ADVISORY



Public Health
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TO: Physicians and other Health Care Providers

Please distribute a copy of this information to each provider in your organization.

Questions regarding this information may be directed to the office of:

Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, CPH

Health Officer

Clark County Public Health

Phone: (360) 397-8412

Alert categories:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.

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**HEALTH
ADVISORY**
Aug. 22, 2018

**King County investigating cases of
inflammation syndrome following
cataract surgeries**



Summary

Public Health – Seattle & King County is investigating 15 cases of toxic anterior segment syndrome (TASS) following eye surgeries at three King County facilities. TASS is an acute, noninfectious inflammation of the eye that results when a foreign substance is introduced into the eye during surgery, typically cataract surgery. TASS is an uncommon complication and usually results from exposure to contaminants in medications or on surgical instruments used in the eye during surgery. The causes of the TASS cases in King County have not been determined.

Most cases of TASS can be treated successfully with topical steroids and anti-inflammatory treatments. But, in the worst cases, TASS can lead to vision loss.

Action requested

The Washington State Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration are assisting with the King County investigation.

The Washington State Department of Health requests that facilities report to their local health jurisdiction cases of TASS in any patient receiving anterior segment surgery, such as cataract surgery, since Jan. 1, 2018.

Cases can be reported to Clark County Public Health at 564.397.8182. Clark County Public Health will then report cases to the Washington State Department of Health.