

Table 3. Challenges encountered in providing care to paediatric ophthalmic patients and the solutions

Case(s)	Challenges	Solutions
All cases	How can we communicate effectively?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Liaise with interpreters</li><li>• Expand the team to include ophthalmologists from Gaza</li></ul>
1–11	Can the eye be salvaged?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teach available medics anterior segment photography with a smart phone camera</li><li>• Identify and include ophthalmologists from Gaza</li></ul>
	Can vision be saved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Create contextualized ocular examination videos to triage patients and formulate a management plan</li></ul>
7	Can we arrange penetrating keratoplasty to save the only functional eye?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Liaise with other teams to procure equipment required for the graft</li><li>• Use a blue torchlight to measure and monitor the response of epithelial defect to treatment</li></ul>
8	Is there a foreign body in the eye?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Perform x-ray orbit in the absence of an ocular ultrasound/computed tomography</li></ul>
10	Can vision in either eye be saved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evacuate to a neighbouring country for urgent evaluation by a vitreoretinal surgeon</li></ul>
13 & 4	Can the patient's life be saved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Push for urgent evacuation</li></ul>
21	Can the cornea be saved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Substitute an emollient with edible oil to keep the periorbital skin moist</li></ul>
22	How can other children with retinopathy of prematurity be prevented from going blind?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Include ophthalmologists from Gaza in the team to screen children at risk and provide treatment to those with retinopathy of prematurity</li></ul>
18 & 19	How can vision be saved during the long wait for evacuation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Engage available ophthalmologists to offer sight saving ocular surgery to the patient</li></ul>