

Chemical Peel Pearl: Use of White Petrolatum as an Eye and Mouth Protectant

During chemical peel procedures, an assistant usually holds a cotton-tipped applicator at the patient's canthi to prevent the peel solution from trickling into the patient's eyes.¹ If an assistant is not available, a small amount of plain white petrolatum, or petroleum jelly, may be placed at the medial and lateral canthi and at the corners of the mouth (Figure). Petrolatum's hydrophobic properties keep the peel solution away from the eyes and oral angles. The practitioner must avoid contact between the petrolatum and the peel solution applicator because spreading petrolatum to other areas of the face could impede the even penetration of the peel solution. It is also important to have several syringes containing 10 to 20 cc of normal saline available for immediate flushing of the eyes if contact with the peel solution occurs.

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Reference

1. Monheit GD. Chemical peels. *Skin Therapy Lett.* 2004;9:6-11. ■

Figure Not Available Online

Applying a small amount of white petrolatum to the medial and lateral canthi and corners of the mouth during chemical peel procedures helps prevent the peel solution from trickling into the patient's eyes and oral angles.