

Comparative features of types of conjunctivitis

	Allergic conjunctivitis	Bacterial conjunctivitis	Chlamydial conjunctivitis	Gonococcal conjunctivitis	Viral conjunctivitis
Clinical features	<p>symptoms are usually bilateral in seasonal and perennial conjunctivitis</p> <p>symptoms may be unilateral in contact hypersensitivity</p> <p>symptoms include itch, watery or mucoid discharge</p>	<p>acute onset of symptoms</p> <p>symptoms initially unilateral but can become bilateral</p> <p>symptoms include conjunctival injection (red eye), purulent discharge, crusting of the eyelids</p>	<p>acute or subacute onset of symptoms</p> <p>symptoms usually unilateral</p> <p>symptoms include conjunctival injection (red eye) and mucopurulent discharge</p> <p>may also be chronic conjunctivitis (trachoma)</p>	<p>acute onset of symptoms</p> <p>symptoms are severe and include copious green hyperpurulent discharge, swollen eye lids</p> <p>ulceration and rapid perforation of the cornea and blindness can occur</p> <p>in neonates, usually presents in the first 2 to 5 days of life, and sometimes at birth</p>	<p>symptoms initially unilateral but often become bilateral within days</p> <p>symptoms include conjunctival injection (red eye), watery or mucoid discharge, irritation</p>
Aetiology	<p>local response to an allergen, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seasonal (typically spring and autumn) • perennial • contact (eg preservatives in eye drops, contact lens solutions) 	<p>can be primary or secondary (eg nasolacrimal duct obstruction)</p> <p>pathogens include <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>, <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>, <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i></p>	<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>	<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>	<p>frequently associated with a viral upper respiratory tract infection and preauricular lymphadenopathy</p> <p>most commonly caused by adenovirus</p>