

Conjunctivitis (pink eye) causes, symptoms, & treatment



What causes conjunctivitis?

- ▶ **Bacteria** (*bacterial conjunctivitis*)
- ▶ **Viruses** (*viral conjunctivitis*)
- ▶ **Allergies** (*allergic conjunctivitis*)
- ▶ **Irritants** (*may include: dirt, pool chlorine, smoke*)

What are the typical symptoms of conjunctivitis?

- ▶ **The symptoms of pinkeye differ based on the cause of the inflammation, but the most typical include:**
- ▶ Yellow-green discharge
- ▶ red eyes
- ▶ burning eyes
- ▶ painful eyes (esp. bacterial form)
- ▶ Increased tear production
- ▶ Crusting of eyelids or lashes
- ▶ Blurred vision
- ▶ Increased sensitivity to light

How is conjunctivitis treated ?

The treatment for pink eye usually depends on the cause.

- ▶ **Bacterial conjunctivitis** *is treated with antibiotics(in the form of eye drops, ointments, or pills).*
- ▶ **Viral conjunctivitis** *resolves on its own and does not require any specific treatment. However, strict code of hygiene should be followed.*
- ▶ **Allergic conjunctivitis** *is treated by identifying the trigger of allergy. It may also require the use of cool compresses and anti-allergy eye drops.*
- ▶ **Irritant conjunctivitis** *is treated via irrigation.*

! *Complication are rare, but may include inflammation in the cornea and secondary infections (meningitis).*