

COVID-19 OCULAR ASSOCIATIONS IN THE SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE: SYNOPSIS 5

The COVID-19 pandemic began in December and has affected people in nearly every country in the world. We provide a summary of ocular-related associations with COVID-19 in the literature, and we plan to update this as we become aware of new manuscripts. Thus far, it appears that approximately 1-5% of COVID-19 patients experience conjunctivitis and very few COVID-19 patients exhibit virus in their tears.

Chen L, Deng C, Chen X, Zhang X, Chen B, Yu H, Qin Y, Xiao K, Zhang H, and Sun X. Ocular manifestations and clinical characteristics of 534 cases of COVID-19 in China: A cross-sectional study. MedRxiv (not peer-reviewed)

- 25 (4.7%) presented with conjunctival congestion
- 3 had conjunctival congestion as initial symptom
- Patients confirmed as COVID-19 (+) via RT-PCR
- 5.6% 45 years or older; 49.8% female; 61.2% had a fever
- **Diagnosis** n (%)
 - Conjunctival congestion 25 (4.7)
 - Conjunctival secretion 52 (9.8)
 - Foreign body sensation 63 (11.8)
 - Photophobia 15 (2.8)
 - Blurred vision 68 (12.7)
 - Dry eye 112 (21.0)
 - Tearing 55 (10.3)
 - Itching 53 (9.9)
- **Conclusion:** “Conjunctival congestion was one of the COVID-19 related ocular symptoms, which may have clinical diagnostic significance. It is essential to provide eye-care equipment and strengthen education on eye protection, as dirty hand-eye contact might be a high risk factor of COVID-19. Further detailed and comprehensive ophthalmological guidance is needed for COVID-19 control.”



AMERICAN ACADEMY
of OPTOMETRY