

COVID-19 OCULAR ASSOCIATIONS IN THE SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE: SYNOPSIS 6

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.

Wu P, Duan F, Luo C, Liu Q, Qu X, Liang L, Wu K. Characteristics of Ocular Findings of Patients With Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Hubei Province, China. JAMA Ophthalmol 2020

- Case series
- 38 patients with clinically confirmed COVID-19
- Median age 68 years, 66% male
- 12 (31.6%) exhibited ocular findings
 - 8 exhibited chemosis
 - 7 exhibited epiphora
 - 7 exhibited secretion
 - 3 exhibited conjunctival hyperemia
 - All 12 had (+) nasopharyngeal swab for virus, but only 2 had (+) conjunctival swab for virus
- Conclusion: “In this study, one-third of patients with COVID-19 had ocular abnormalities, which frequently occurred in patients with more severe COVID-19. Although there is a low prevalence of [COVID-19] in tears, it is possible to transmit via the eyes.”



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