

DOCTOR RED EYE DIFFERENTIALS



AMERICAN ACADEMY
of OPTOMETRY

	bacterial conjunctivitis	allergic conjunctivitis	dry eye	COVID-19 associated conjunctivitis
laterality	starts unilateral can become bilateral	mostly bilateral may be asymmetric	mostly bilateral	may start unilateral and become bilateral
discharge	mucopurulent	watery	watery	watery
redness	mild – moderate	mild	mild	mild – moderate
other symptoms	irritation grittiness stickiness	itching	foreign body, gritty or itchy	foreign body or dryness
onset	acute more common in contact lens wearers	acute or chronic may have other signs of allergy (e.g. rhinitis)	chronic	acute associated with fever, tiredness, dry cough or other COVID-19 symptoms