

PATIENT RED EYE DIFFERENTIALS



AMERICAN ACADEMY
of OPTOMETRY

	bacterial pink eye	allergic pink eye	dry eye	COVID-19 associated pink eye
one or both eyes	starts in one eye but can quickly move to the other	usually both eyes are affected	usually both eyes are affected	both eyes may be affected
discharge from eye(s)	mucus or pus-like	watery	watery	watery
redness	mild – moderate	mild	mild	mild – moderate
other symptoms	irritation grittiness stickiness	itching	sandy, gritty or itchy	irritation, grittiness 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