

COVID-19 OCULAR ASSOCIATIONS IN THE SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE:

SYNOPSIS 17

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.

SARS-CoV-2 Isolation From Ocular Secretions of a Patient With COVID-19 in Italy With Prolonged Viral RNA Detection. Colavita F, Lapa D, Carletti F, et al. Annals of Internal Medicine. 2020

- Case report
- 65 year old woman travelled from Wuhan, China to Italy on January 23, 2020
- Symptoms began January 28
- She was admitted on January 29 with nonproductive cough, sore throat, and bilateral conjunctivitis
- Day 4 after admission, fever, nausea, and vomiting began, and COVID-19 confirmed by RT-PCR
- Day 3 after admission, ocular samples collected and (+) for COVID-19 up to day 21, with declining virus concentration
- Conjunctivitis greatly improved at day 15 and resolved at day 20
- Five days after undetectable, ocular ample (+) for COVID-19 again
- COVID-19 detected in ocular swab days after no longer detectable in nasal swab
- Late ocular samples had higher concentrations of COVID-19 than nasal samples
- Suggests sustained replication in conjunctiva
- Conclusion: “We found that ocular fluids from SARS-CoV-2-infected patients may contain infectious virus, and hence may be a potential source of infection. These findings highlight the importance of control measures, such as avoiding touching the nose, mouth, and eyes and frequent hand washing.”



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