

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

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.

Safadi K, Kruger JM, et al. Ophthalmology Practice during the COVID-19 Pandemic. BMJ Open Ophthalmol. 2020

- **Literature review**
- **PPE**
 - Wear masks and eye protection when caring for patients
 - Patients should be requested to refrain from speaking during the slit lamp examination
 - Practice hand hygiene measures and use of gloves, N95 masks, goggles, and gowns
- **Environmental control**
 - Install protective barrier on slit lamp
 - Disinfect equipment after each patient, including keyboards, desks, door handles, and chairs
 - Use dilute household bleach (5 tablespoons of bleach per gallon of water) and at least 70% alcohol solutions
 - Improve air ventilation in waiting areas by opening air dampers of air handling equipment
- **Administrative control**
 - Screening questions over phone to include fever, dry cough, sore throat, headache, loss of taste/smell, proximity to COVID-19 case, and travel to endemic region
 - Postpone elective visits and surgeries
 - Block alternate seats in waiting area
- **Telemedicine**
 - Manage injuries, exacerbations of chronic conditions, and closure of outpatient offices by telemedicine if possible
- **Structured organization**
 - Triage non-urgent cases using flow charts
 - Create teams of nurses and doctors who work together exclusively
 - Separate imaging areas as much as possible
 - Staff suspected of COVID-19 based on contact or testing must be quarantined for two weeks, then show two separate RT-PCR tests within 48 hours before returning to work
- **Advice was provided for specific services**
- **Conclusion:** “Important literature emerged with respect to the practice of ophthalmology in the era of COVID-19. An evidence-based ophthalmic practice protocol was established and should be modified in the future to accommodate new insights on the COVID-19 pandemic.”



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