

ADENOVIRAL EYE INFECTION

Adenoviral eye infection is commonly known as “pink eye” or “viral keratoconjunctivitis”. This infection rarely progresses to a dangerous, sight threatening condition, even without medical treatment. It is however a very uncomfortable and cosmetically unpleasing eye infection that is both long lasting and highly contagious. One eye is affected first, and the other is usually involved within one week. The virus is usually transferred from hand to eye, so if someone is experiencing a red, uncomfortable eye, **be sure to wash your hands** thoroughly after contact with that person. The disease usually lasts for 2 to 3 weeks, but may persist for months, even with appropriate medical treatment. Cold compresses and artificial tears do much to relieve most symptoms, but prescription eye drops or ointments are sometimes prescribed to prevent a secondary bacterial infection or to increase comfort.

The key to management is **patience** - it may take quite a while for total recovery. This condition is not like a mild bacterial infection that clears in a matter of days with eye drops.

It may take up to 3 to 5 visits to the eye doctor for proper follow-up and successful completion of treatment, but all follow-up visits help to achieve white, comfortable eyes in the shortest period of time. Please call our office if you have any questions or your condition worsens.

One more note: Vision may be moderately affected in the acute phase, but generally returns to normal after several weeks.