



Wasatch View Eye Care

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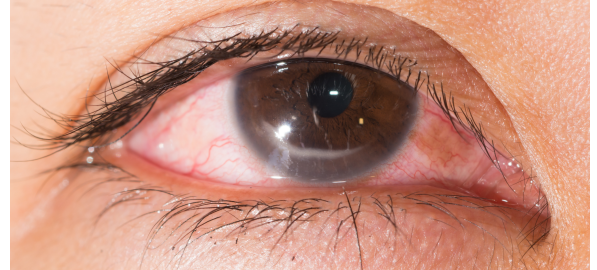
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Keratitis

Overview

Keratitis is inflammation of the cornea. Signs and symptoms include redness, light sensitivity, pain, watering, foreign body sensation and decreased vision. It has both non-infectious and infectious causes. Non-infectious causes may be related to trauma, surgery, exposure or autoimmune disorders. Infectious causes are typically viral or bacterial (rarely fungal or parasitic). Evaluation of keratitis is obtained by taking a good medical history, testing vision and carefully examining the eye with a biomicroscope. Treatment for non-infectious keratitis uses topical NSAID and steroid medications. Infectious keratitis is treated with the appropriate antiviral or antibiotic. Steroids might be used with infectious keratitis once it has been determined that they wouldn't make the infection worse.



Signs & Symptoms

Patients with keratitis will present with pain, light sensitivity, redness, decreased vision, watering and a foreign body. Pain can vary from mild to very severe. The ciliary body reacts to the inflammation and goes into spasm causing the light sensitivity. Redness is typical because of the inflammation involved with keratitis. Vision will be reduced if the keratitis is affecting the visual axis. The eye waters a lot in keratitis to help wash away any foreign bodies or pathogens.

Causes

Non-infectious causes of keratitis are related to autoimmune diseases, hypersensitivity reactions, allergic responses, contact lenses and exposure to the elements.. Infectious causes are caused by bacteria (i.e. staph, strep), and viruses (i.e. herpes, chicken pox). Less common infectious causes include parasites (acanthamoeba) and fungus.

Evaluation

An evaluation of keratitis includes a thorough history, a good look at the cornea with a biomicroscope, fluorescein staining and checking intraocular pressure. In severe cases or those not responding to treatment many require laboratory testing and cultures

Management

Non-infectious causes are typically treated with topical NSAIDS or steroids. In some cases this might include improving lid hygiene and managing concurrent dry eye. Infectious causes are treated with topical/oral antibiotics and antivirals.

Websites

American Optometric Association:

<https://www.aoa.org/healthy-eyes/eye-and-vision-conditions/keratitis?sso=y>

All About Vision:

<https://www.allaboutvision.com/conditions/infections-allergies/keratitis/#:~:text=Keratitis%20is%20inflammation%20of%20the,of%20causing%20permanent%20vision%20loss.>