



## PINK EYE / CONJUNCTIVITIS

### What is pink eye or conjunctivitis?

Pink eye is also known as conjunctivitis or inflammation of the conjunctiva. The conjunctiva is the thin, filmy membrane that covers the inside of your eyelids and the white part of the eye (sclera). The conjunctiva, which contains tiny blood vessels, produces mucous

to keep the surface of your eye moist and protected. When the conjunctiva becomes irritated or swollen, the blood vessels become larger and more prominent, making your eye appear red.

#### Viral infection

This is the most common cause of pink eye. Symptoms can last up to 2 weeks, and can be relieved with cold compresses applied to the eyes.

#### Bacterial infection

Infections like Staphylococcus or Streptococcus, cause bacterial conjunctivitis. There may be a pussy discharge with mild crusting of the eyelashes in the morning. Antibiotic eye drops are used to treat the infection.

Please note that these are general guidelines. If in doubt, consult your ophthalmologist.