**CASE REPORT**

**BACTERIAL CONJUNCTIVITIS**

**key points**

**SELECTED BY**

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**It is important to be vigilant for retained foreign bodies**
as a cause of recalcitrant bacterial conjunctivitis, even in the absence of foreign body sensation. A relapsing-remitting history should prompt referral to an ophthalmology department.

**All patients presenting with a red eye should be asked**
specifically about contact lens wear, and causes of conjunctivitis other than those bacterial in nature — such as viral and chlamydial infections or allergy — should be borne in mind.

**Contact lens wear may cause several ocular complications,**
ranging from mild dry eye symptoms to contact lens-associated microbial keratitis, which constitutes an ophthalmic emergency. Contact lens-associated corneal infections caused by the Gram-negative bacterium *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, which can rapidly penetrate the cornea, or the protozoa Acanthamoeba, which can be introduced to the eye from both water and soil contamination, can be severe and sight threatening.

**Retained contact lenses are known to cause several ocular complications,**
such as giant papillary conjunctivitis and ulcerative keratitis which may threaten corneal penetration. Lid eversion may reveal a hidden sub-tarsal contact lens. Use of fluorescein may also allow visualisation of any corneal epithelial defect. A careful slit lamp examination by an ophthalmologist is required to exclude this critical finding definitively.

**REFERENCES**

8. Bhattacharya A, Sheldrick J, Rose G. An unusual eyelid lump: unsuspected embedded contact lens for up to 40 years. Two cases and literature review. Eye 2011;25(00):1371-3

**CONCLUSIONS**

This case serves as a reminder to all primary care clinicians to be vigilant for retained foreign bodies as a cause of recalcitrant bacterial conjunctivitis, even in the absence of any foreign body sensation. Such a relapsing-remitting history should prompt a referral to the local ophthalmology department.

**Useful information**

**Lid eversion**

A brief video showing the lid eversion examination technique can be found at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=XU-hZ4ryx48

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