

# The Red Eye

GP Update 2010 - Mr Vaughan Tanner



[www.tanner-eyes.co.uk](http://www.tanner-eyes.co.uk)

## Reading

Royal Berkshire Hospital  
Dunedin Hospital

## Windsor

Prince Charles Eye Unit  
Princess Margaret Hospital

# The Red Eye

---

- Lids
- Conjunctiva
- Sclera
- Cornea
- Uveitis
- Glaucoma
- Others

Duration ?

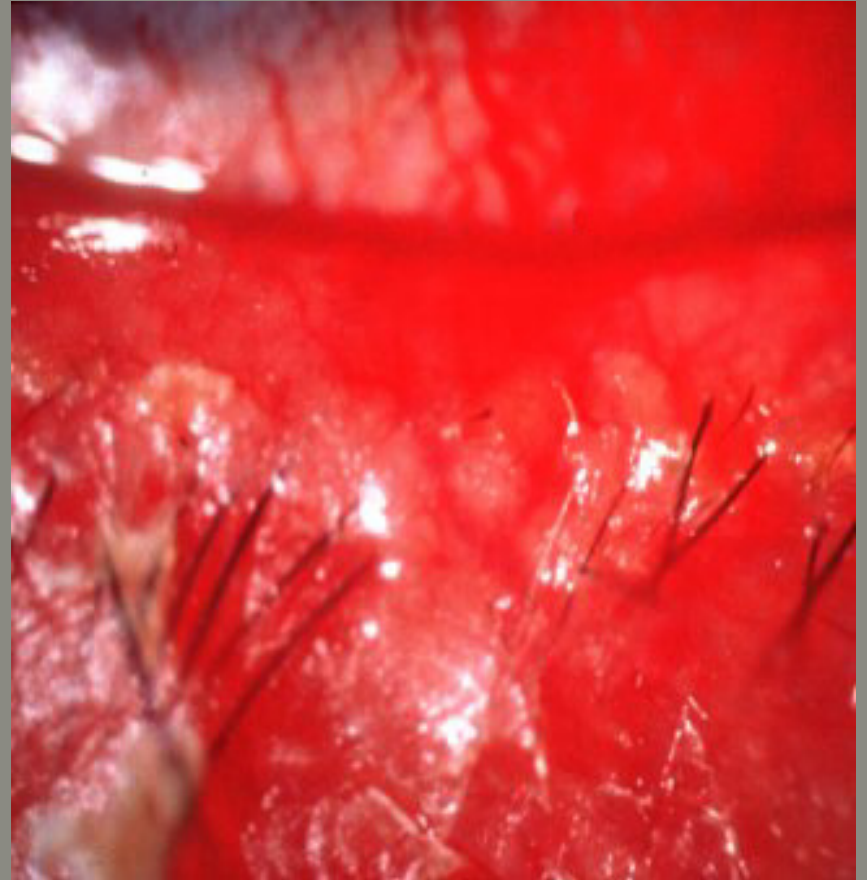
Is it painful ?

Is vision decreased ?

# Staphylococcal blepharitis



- Chronic irritation
- Worse in mornings
- Scales around base of lashes (collarettes)



- Hyperaemia and telangiectasia of anterior lid margin
- Scarring and hypertrophy

# Complications of staphylococcal blepharitis

Trichiasis



Recurrent styes



Marginal keratitis



Tear film instability



# Treatment of Chronic Blepharitis

1. Lid hygiene
  - clean debris from lashes at night with cotton bud
2. Chloramphenicol Ointment
  - to lid margins at night
3. Tear substitutes - for associated tear film instability
  - Hypromellose, Optive, Celluvisc
4. Oral Lymecycline 408 mg OD one month –
  - very useful in most cases

# CONJUNCTIVAL INFECTIONS

## 1. Bacterial

- Simple bacterial conjunctivitis

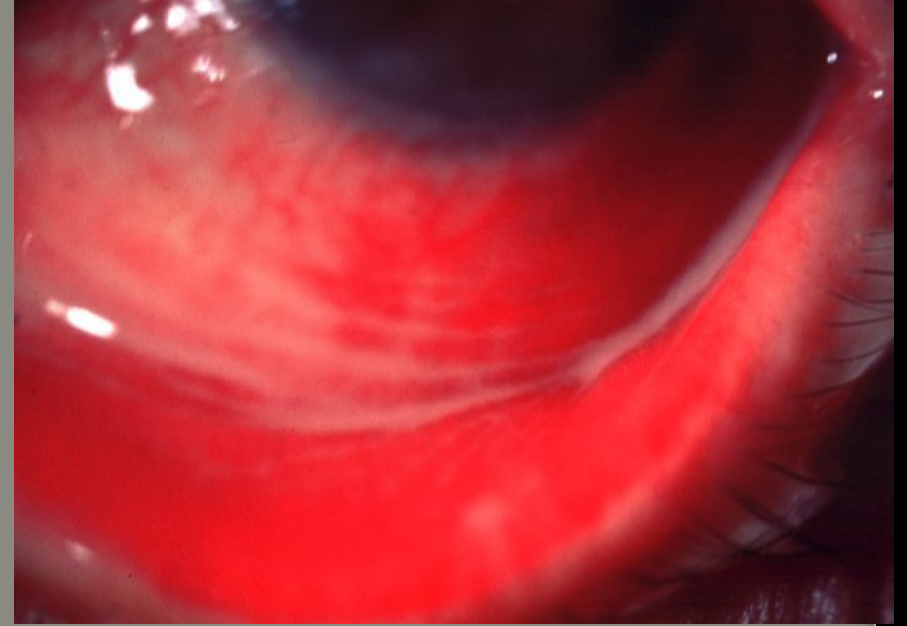
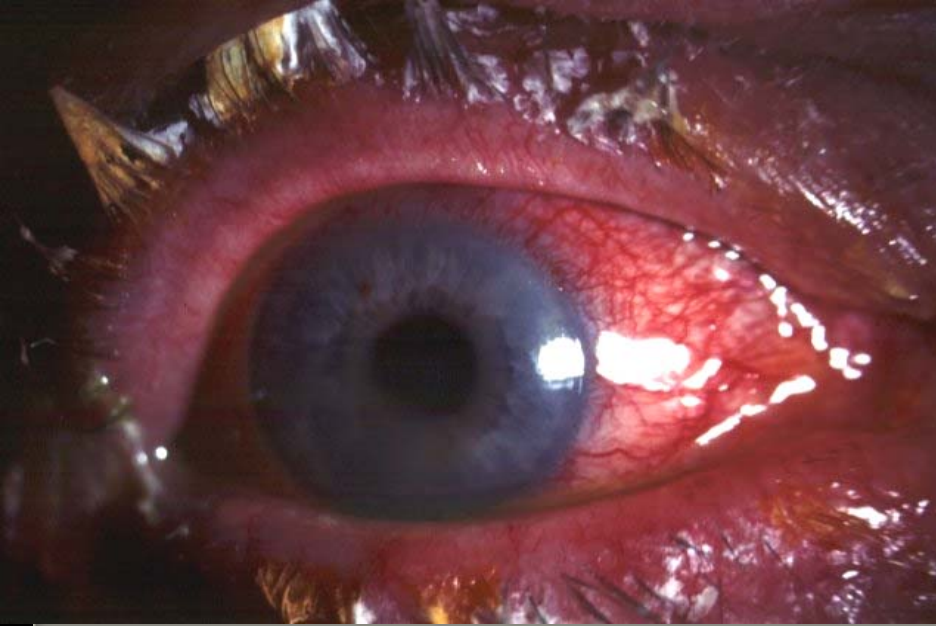
## 2. Viral

- Adenoviral keratoconjunctivitis
- Molluscum contagiosum conjunctivitis
- Herpes simplex conjunctivitis

## 3. Chlamydial

- Adult chlamydial keratoconjunctivitis
- Neonatal chlamydial conjunctivitis
- Trachoma

# Simple bacterial conjunctivitis



**Crusted eyelids and conjunctival injection**

**mucopurulent discharge**

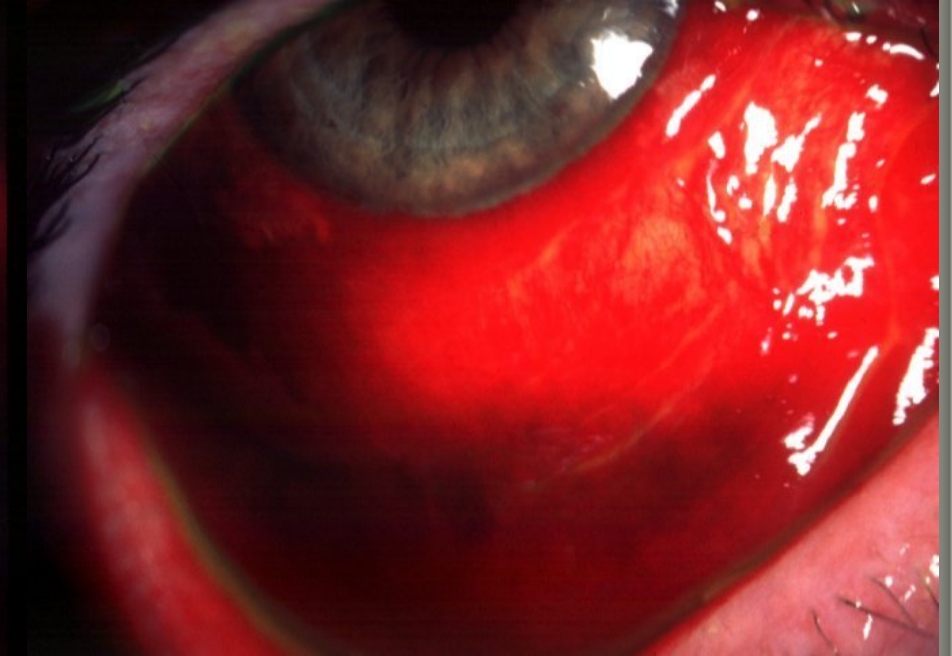
## **Treatment**

- broad-spectrum topical antibiotics
- Chloramphenicol or Fucithamic (soothing base ointment)
- One week only to avoid drop allergy
- Suggest lubricants for persistent irritation/redness

# Viral conjunctivitis



Usually bilateral, acute watery discharge and follicles



Subconjunctival haemorrhages and pseudomembranes if severe

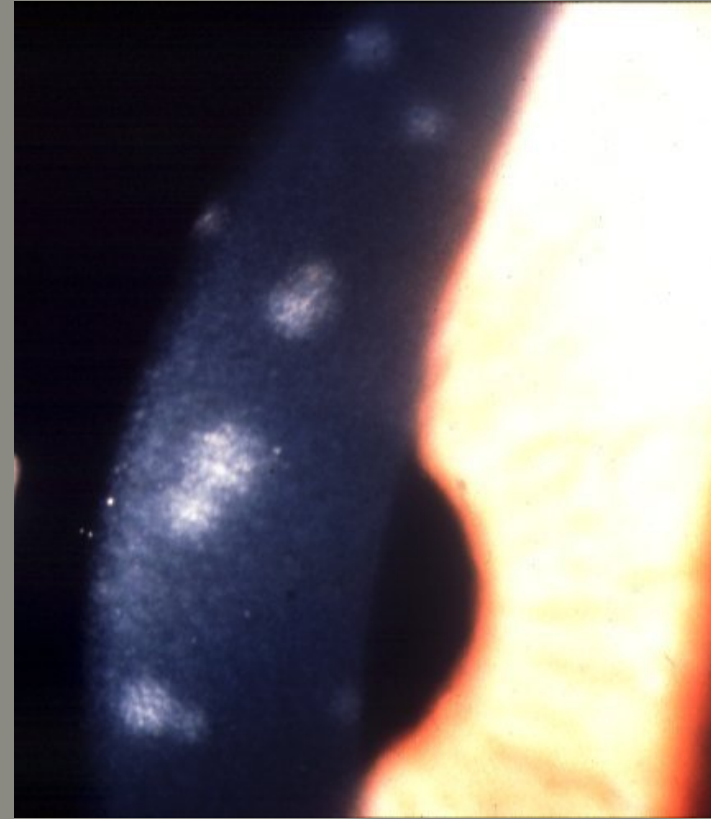
**Treatment** -Tear substitutes or topical antibiotics  
-Fucithalamic has very good carrier gel keeping eyes comfortable



# Post Adenovirus Keratitis



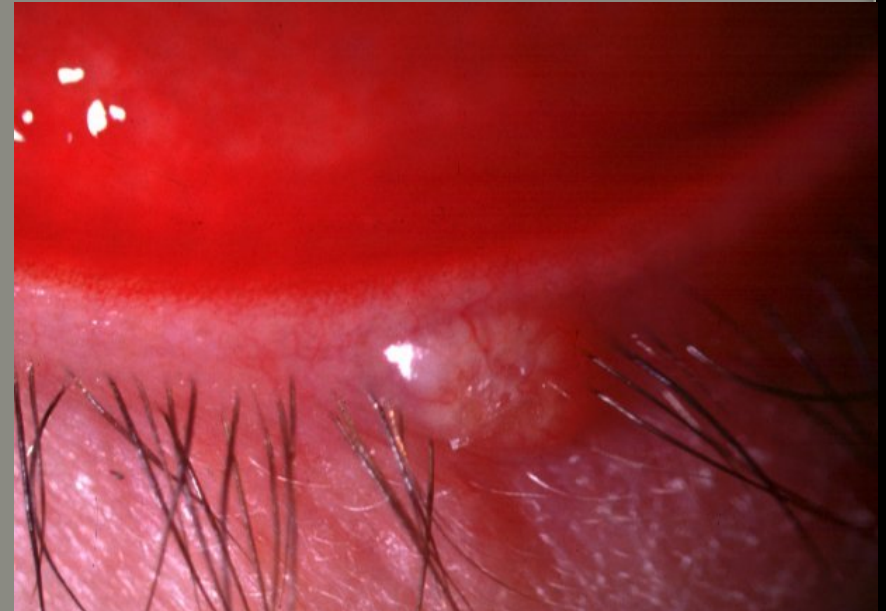
- Persistent photophobia
- Decrease acuity
- Following adenoviral infection



- Focal, subepithelial keratitis
- May persist for months

**Treatment** - topical steroids if persists

# Molluscum contagiosum conjunctivitis



- Waxy, umbilicated eyelid nodule
- May be multiple
- Ipsilateral, chronic, mucoid discharge
- Follicular conjunctivitis

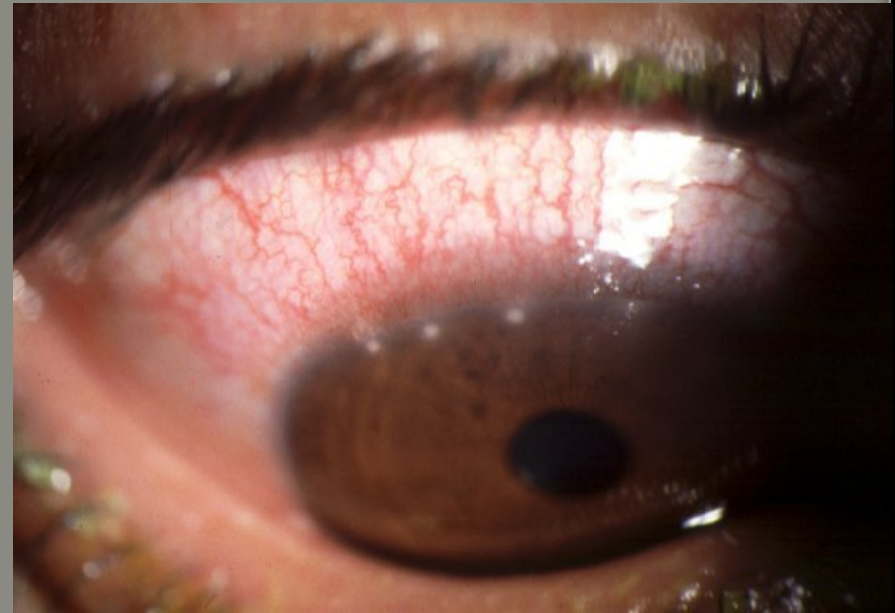
**Treatment - excision/cautery of eyelid lesion**

# Adult chlamydial keratoconjunctivitis

- Infection with *Chlamydia trachomatis* serotypes D to K
- Concomitant genital infection is common



Subacute, mucopurulent follicular conjunctivitis



Variable peripheral keratitis

**Treatment**

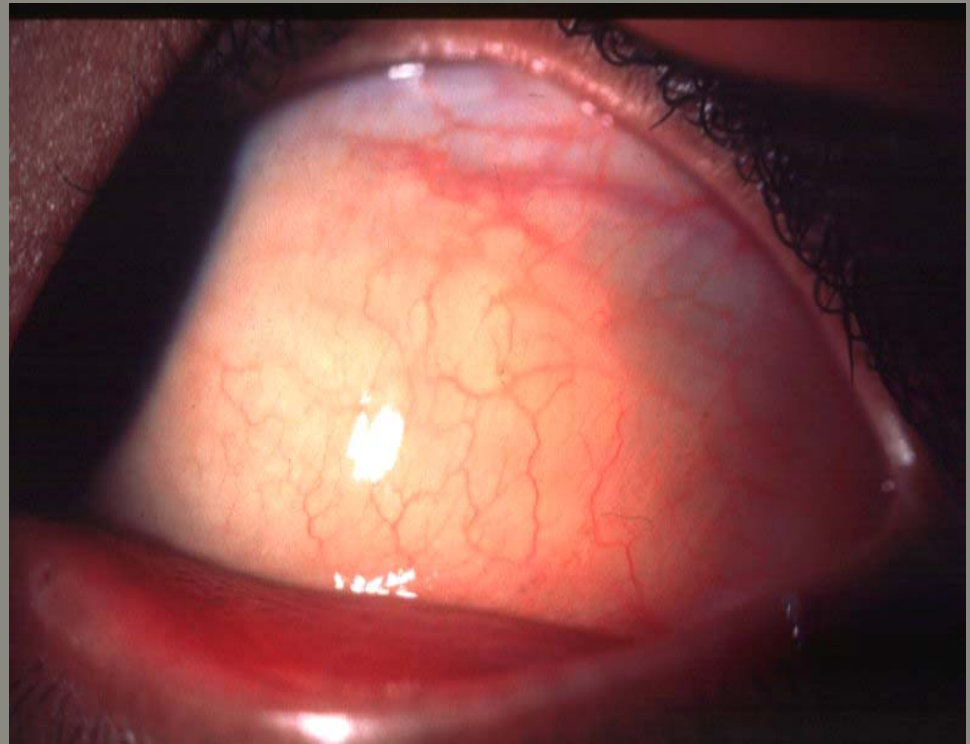
- oral tetracycline or erythromycin
- Consider and send swab in all persistent conjunctivitis if sexually active

# Allergic rhinoconjunctivitis

- Hypersensitivity reaction to specific airborne antigens
- Frequently associated nasal symptoms
- May be seasonal or perennial
- Usually no treatment required



**Transient eyelid oedema**



**Transient conjunctival oedema**

# Vernal keratoconjunctivitis

Frequently assoc. with atopy: asthma, hay fever and dermatitis



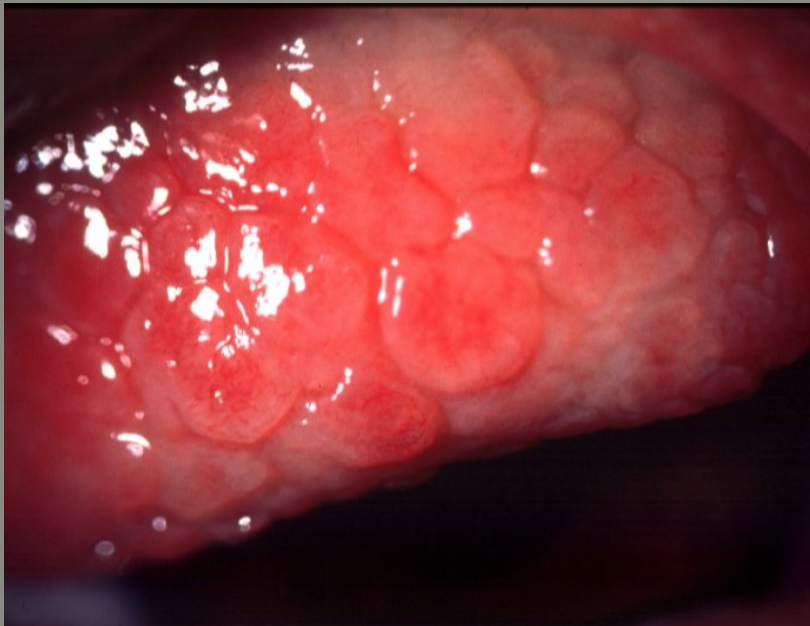
- Recurrent, bilateral
- Affects children and young adults
- Itching, mucoid discharge and lacrimation

## Treatment

- Topical mast cell stabilizers
  - Alomide - sodium chromoglycate
  - Lodoxamide
  - Rapitol

- Topical steroids

# Progression of vernal conjunctivitis



Cobblestone papillae



Giant papillae

# **DIFFUSE EYELID DISEASE**

## **1. Allergic**

- Acute oedema
- Contact dermatitis
- Atopic dermatitis
- Blepharochalasis

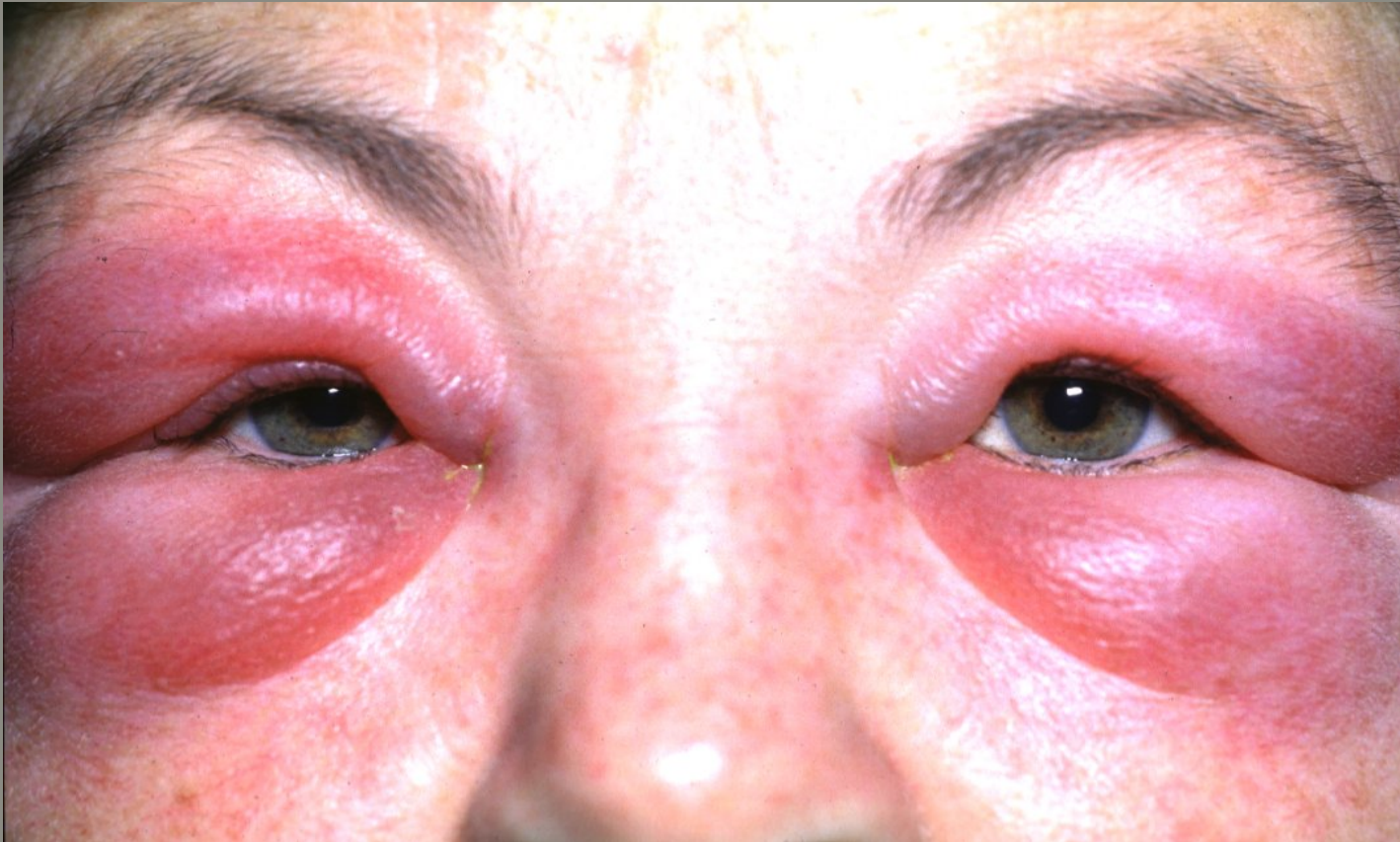
## **2. Infections**

- Preseptal cellulitis
- Herpes simplex
- Herpes zoster ophthalmicus
- Impetigo
- Erysipelas
- Necrotizing fasciitis

## **3. Miscellaneous**

- Systemic causes

# Acute allergic oedema



- Causes - insect bites, urticaria and angioedema
- Unilateral or bilateral
- Painless, red, pitting oedema
- Chemosis may be present
- Self-limiting



# Contact dermatitis



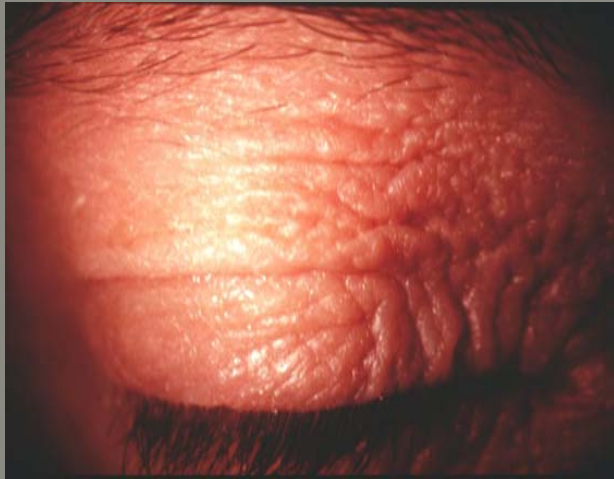
- Sensitivity to topical medication – stop all drops
- Unilateral or bilateral
- Painless oedema and erythema
- Vesiculation and crusting
- Thickening if chronic

# Atopic dermatitis

- Associated with asthma and hay fever
- Chronic itching and scratching



# Ocular associations of atopic dermatitis



Thickening, crusting and  
fissuring



Staph. blepharitis



Angular blepharitis



Vernal disease in children

# Preseptal cellulitis



## Causes

- Skin trauma or insect bites of lids or eyebrows
- Spread from local infection
- Upper respiratory or ear infection

## Signs

- Usually unilateral
- Tender and red
- Periorbital oedema
- White eye

Prise lids apart – If eye white and normal VA just systemic Oral AB

# Orbital cellulitis

- Infection behind orbital septum
- Usually secondary to ethmoiditis
- Presentation - severe malaise, fever and orbital signs



Admit  
IV AB

- Severe eyelid oedema and redness
- Proptosis
- Painful ophthalmoplegia
- Optic nerve dysfunction if advanced

# Herpes simplex



## Signs

- Crops of small vesicles
- Rupture and crust
- Heal without scarring after 7 days

## Complications

- Follicular conjunctivitis
- Keratitis

## Treatment

Topical acyclovir

# Herpes zoster ophthalmicus

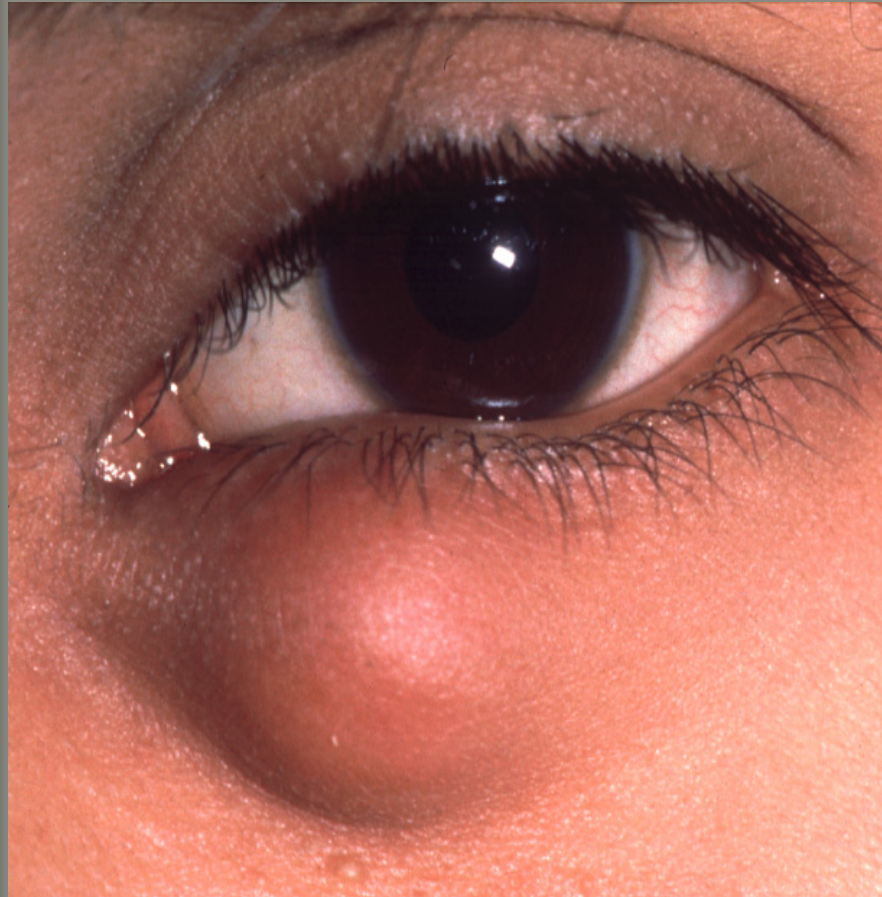


Painful vesicles and pustules  
Peri-orbital oedema  
Crusting ulceration

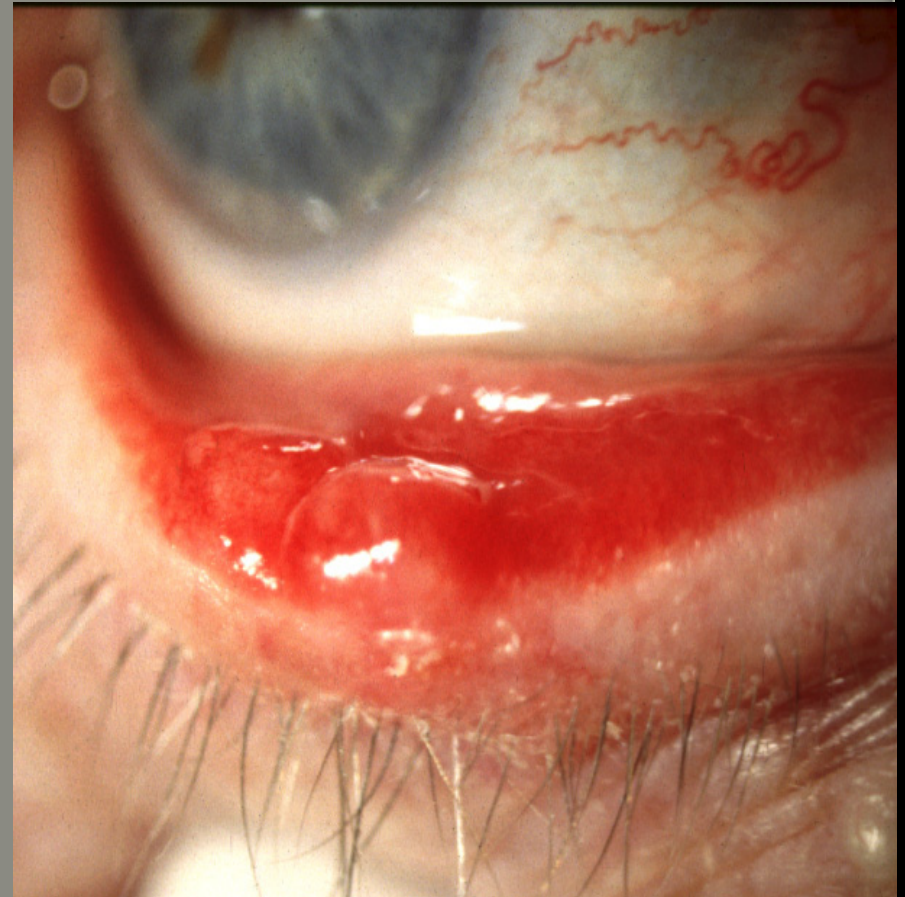


**Treatment**  
- oral antivirals and  
ophthalmic review ? uveitis

# Signs of chalazion (meibomian cyst)



Painless, roundish, firm lesion  
within tarsal plate



May rupture through conjunctiva  
and cause granuloma



# Acute hordeolum

## Internal hordeolum (acute chalazion)



- *Staph.* abscess of meibomian glands
- Tender swelling within tarsal plate

## External hordeolum (stye)



- *Staph.* abscess of lash follicle and associated gland of Zeis or Moll
- Tender swelling at lid margin
- May discharge through skin

# Treatment of chalazion

If persistent – Incision and curretage

Little benefit in antibiotics unless

a. Cellulitis – oral

b. Associated conjunctivitis - drops



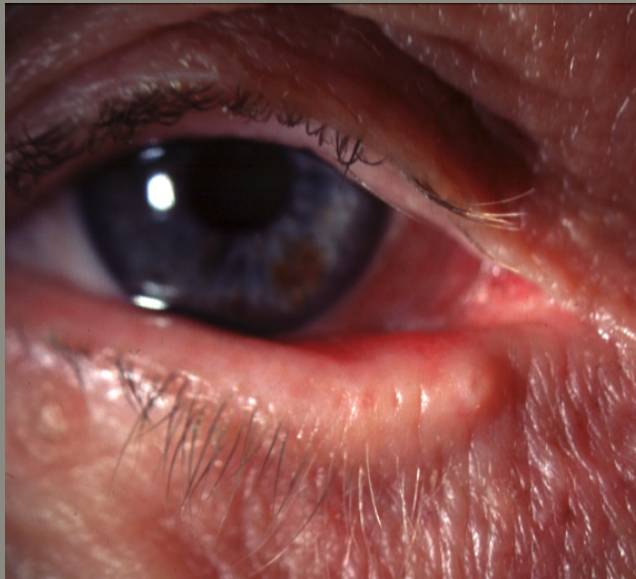
# Involucional Ectropion



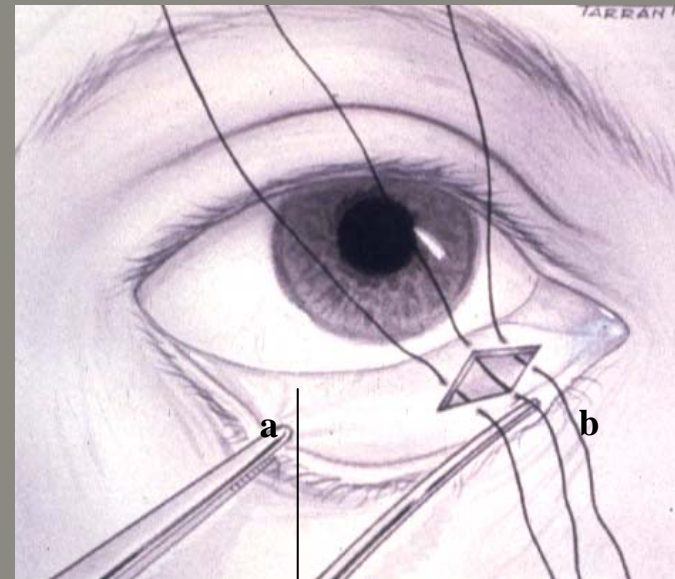
- Affects lower lid of elderly patients
- May cause chronic conjunctival inflammation and thickening

# Treatment of medial ectropion

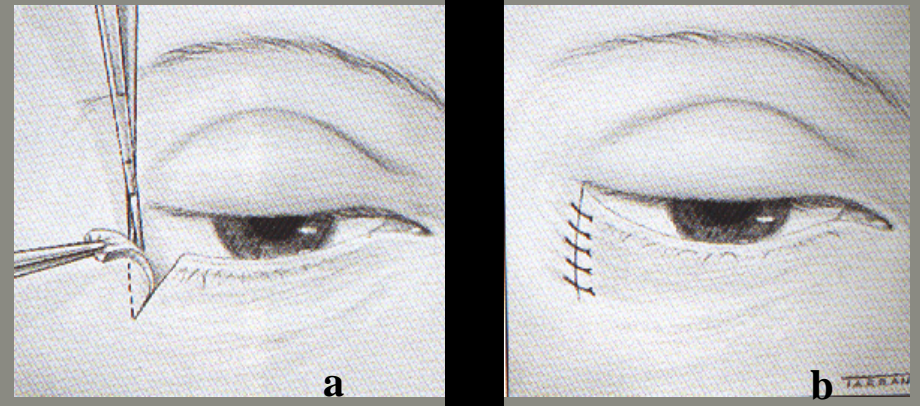
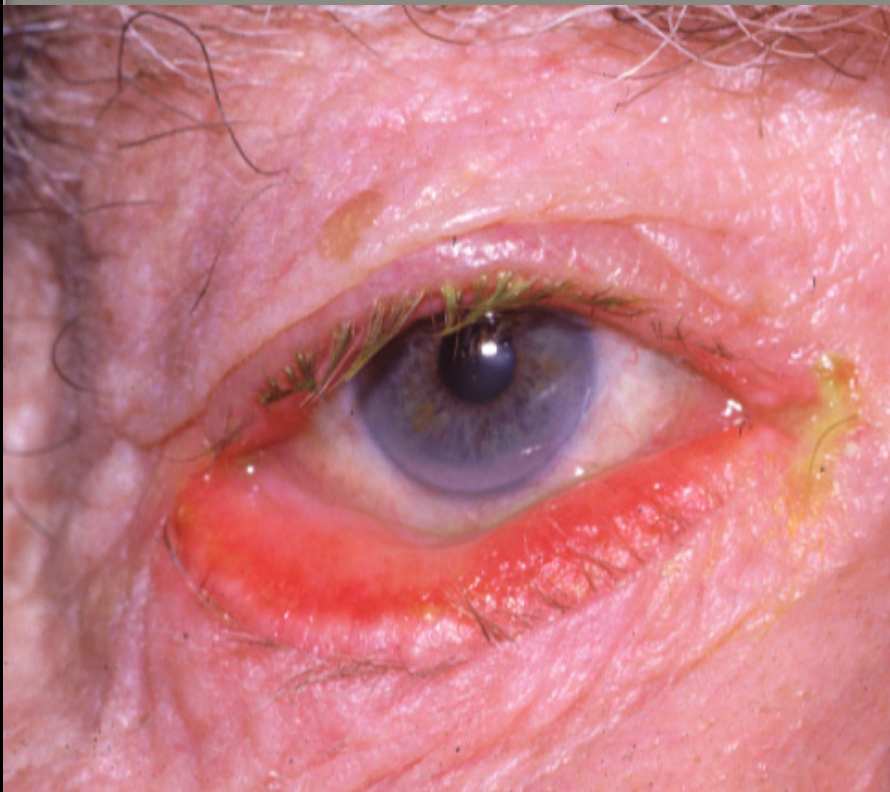
Mild



Medial conjunctivoplasty

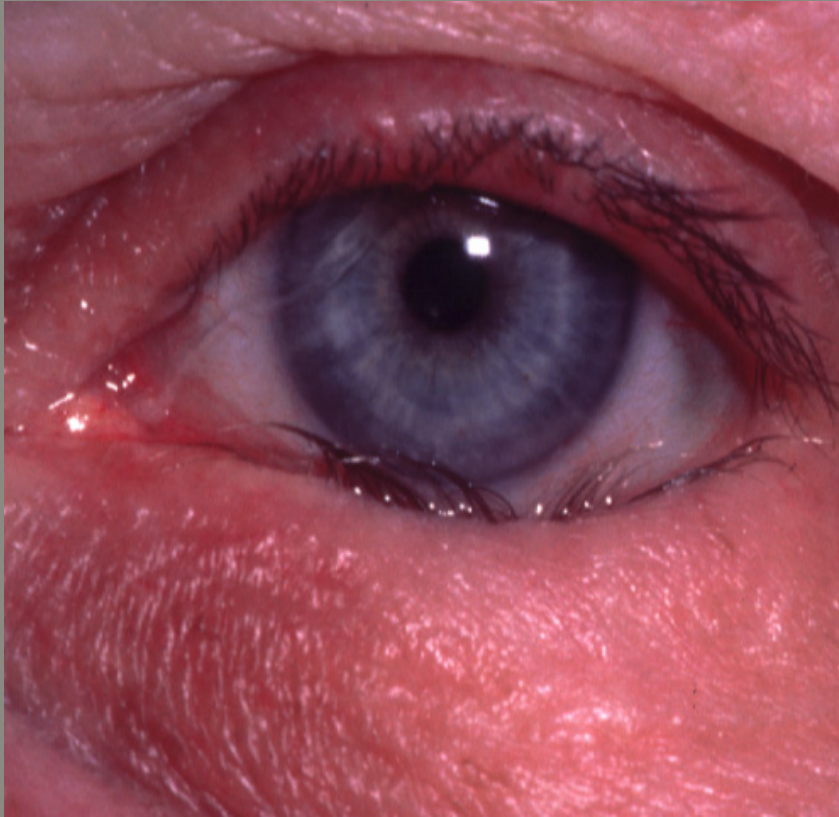


# Treatment of extensive ectropion<sup>b</sup>



Horizontal lid shortening

# Involucional entropion

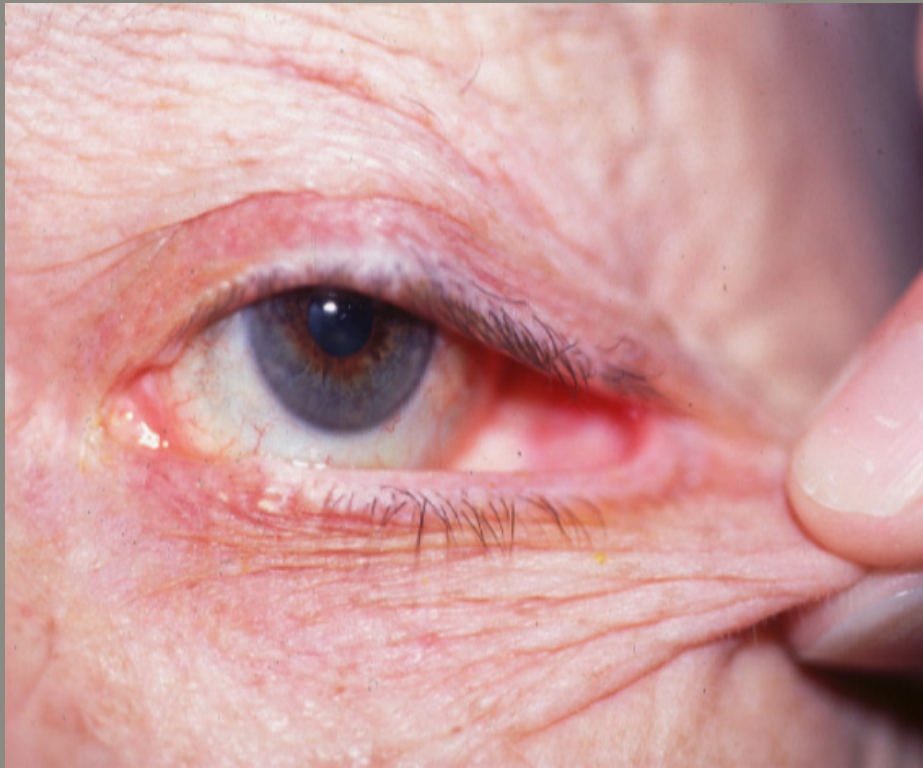


Affects lower lid because upper lid has wider tarsus and is more stable

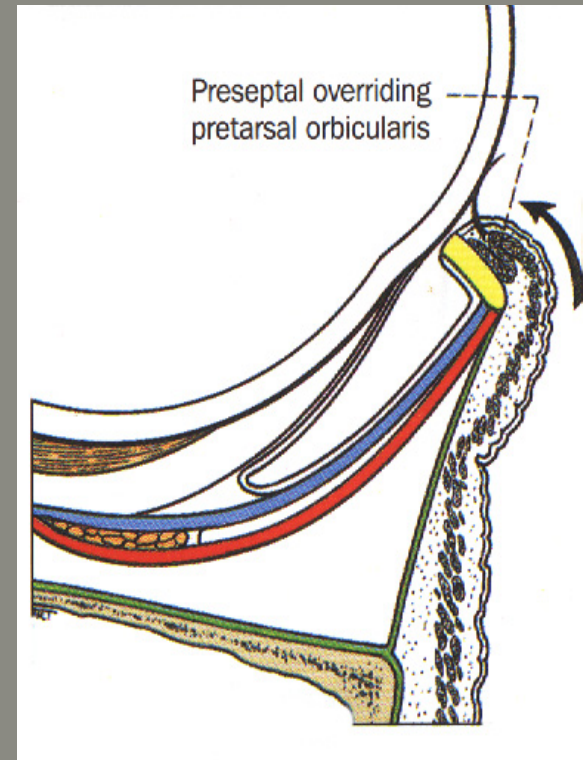


If longstanding may result in corneal ulceration

# Pathogenesis of involutional entropion

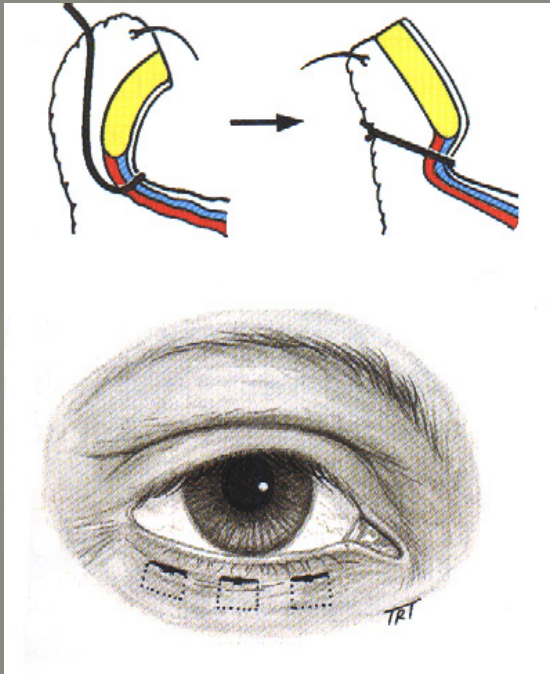


- Canthal tendon laxity
- Horizontal lid laxity

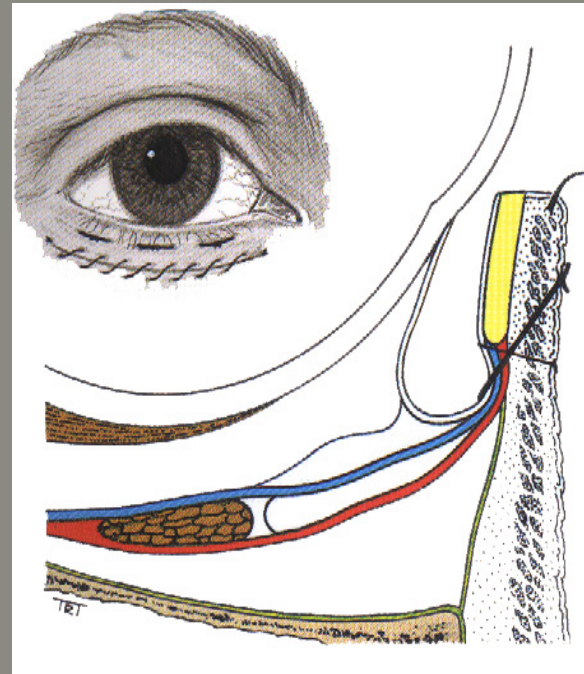


- Overriding of preseptal orbicularis

# Treatment options for involutional entropion



- Transverse everting sutures (temporary)



- Weis procedure (permanent)



# Acute dacryocystitis

Usually secondary to nasolacrimal duct obstruction



- Tender canthal swelling
- Mild preseptal cellulitis

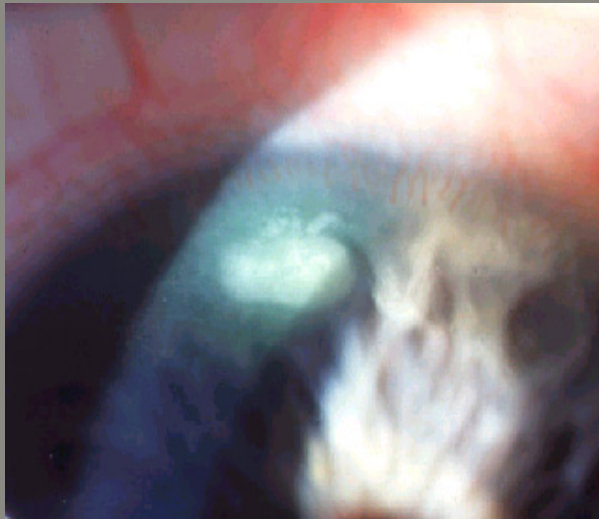


- May develop into abscess

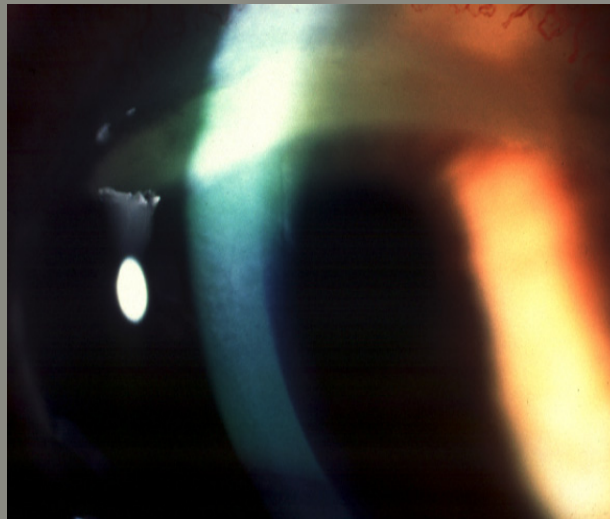
- Systemic antibiotics
- DCR after acute infection is controlled

# Marginal keratitis

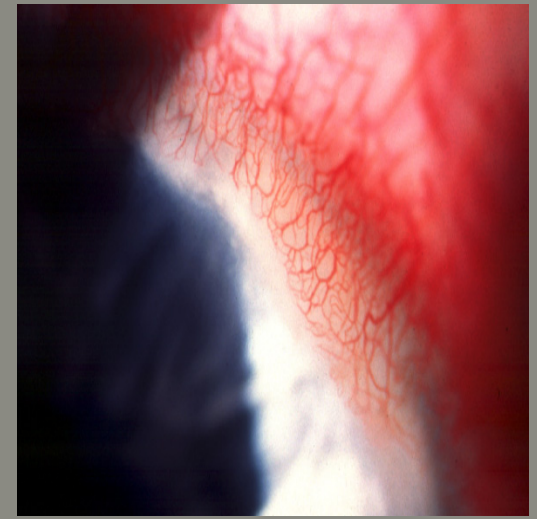
- Hypersensitivity reaction to *Staph.* exotoxins
- May be associated with *Staph.* blepharitis
- Unilateral, transient but recurrent



Subepithelial infiltrate  
separated by clear zone



Circumferential spread

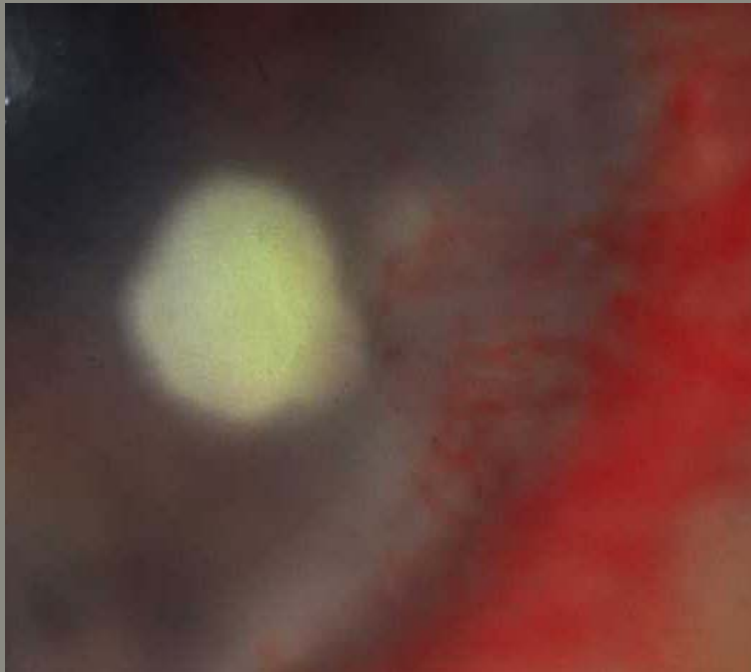


Bridging vascularization  
followed by resolution

**Treatment - short course of topical steroids**

# Bacterial keratitis -refer

- Contact lens wear
- Chronic ocular surface disease
- Corneal hypoaesthesia



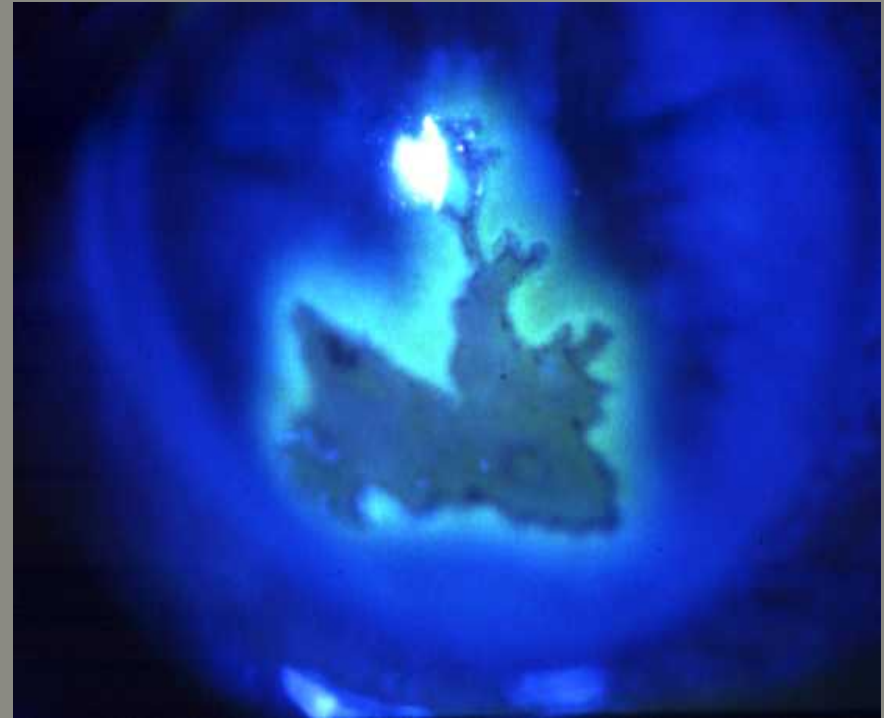
Expanding oval, yellow-white, dense stromal infiltrate



Stromal suppuration and hypopyon

**Treatment - topical ciprofloxacin 0.3% or ofloxacin 0.3%**

# Herpes simplex epithelial keratitis



- Dendritic ulcer with terminal bulbs
- Stains with fluorescein
- No steroids

## Treatment

- Aciclovir 3% ointment x 5 daily

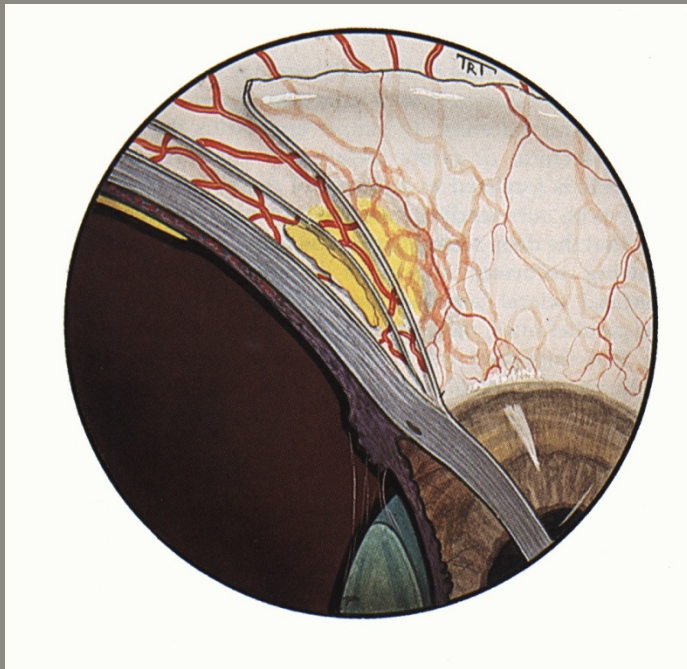
# Herpes simplex disciform keratitis



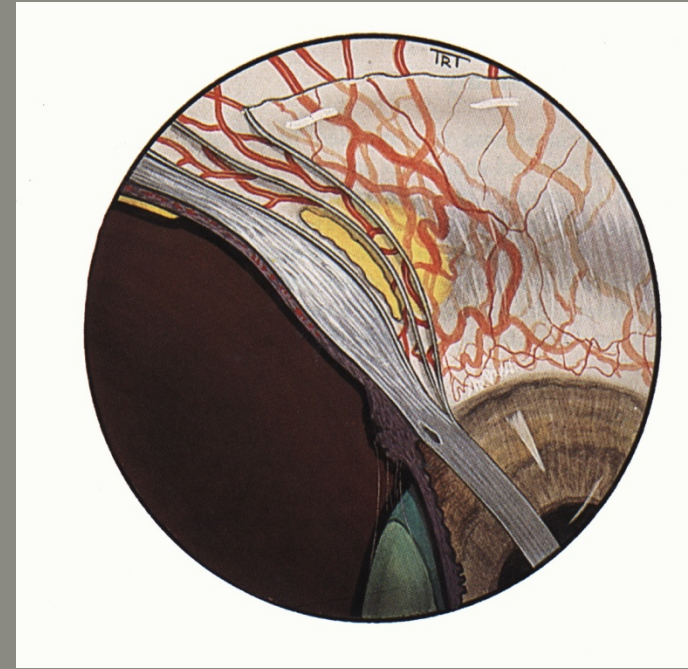
- Central epithelial and stromal oedema
- Folds in Descemet membrane
- Small keratic precipitates

**Treatment - topical steroids with antiviral cover**

# Episcleritis and Scleritis



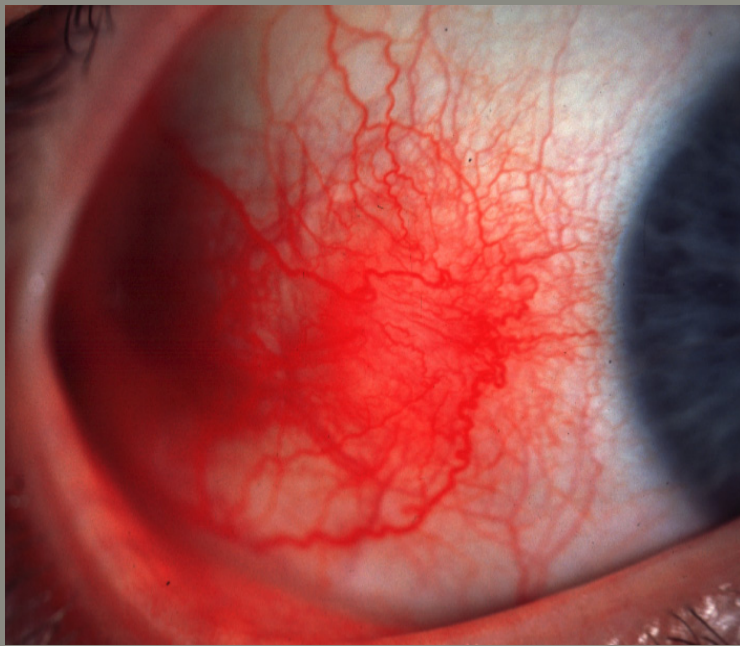
- Maximal congestion of episcleral vessels



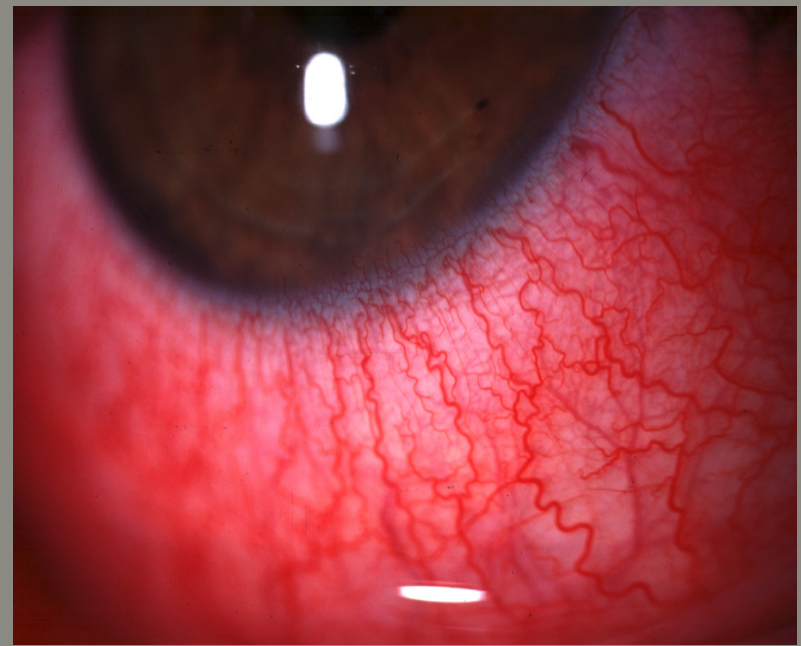
- Maximal congestion of deep vascular plexus

# Simple episcleritis

- Common, benign, self-limiting but frequently recurrent
- Typically affects young adults
- Seldom associated with a systemic disorder



sectorial

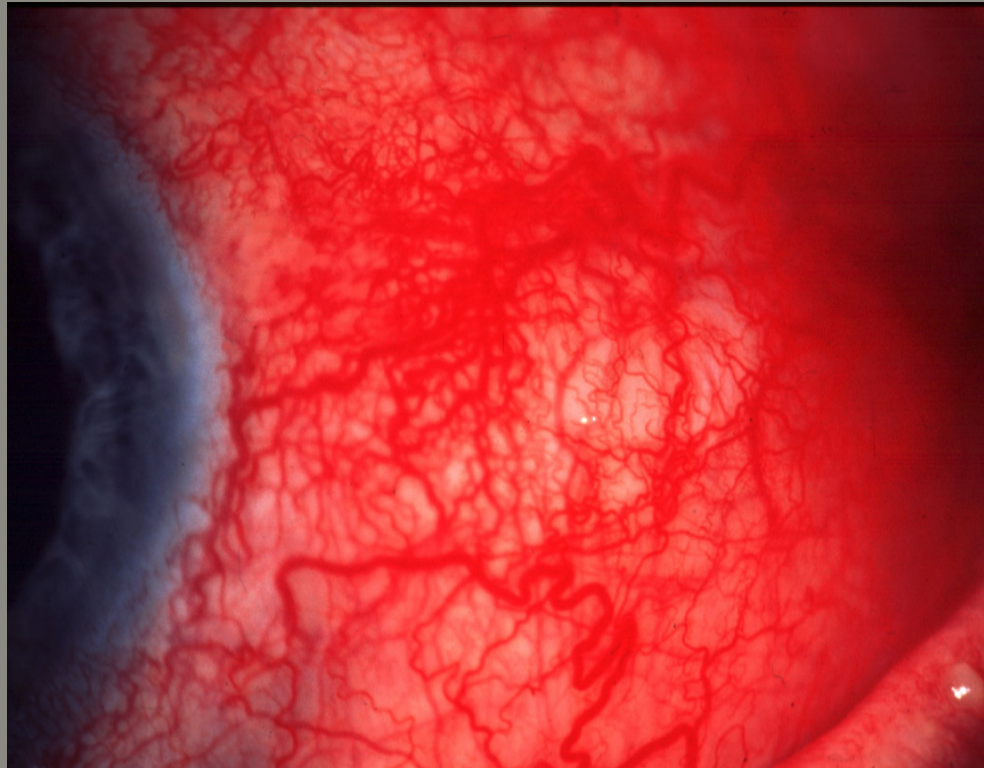


diffuse

**Treatment – Conservative, topical steroids, systemic NSAIDs**

# Diffuse anterior non-necrotizing scleritis

- Relatively benign - does not progress to necrosis
- Widespread scleral and episcleral injection



refer

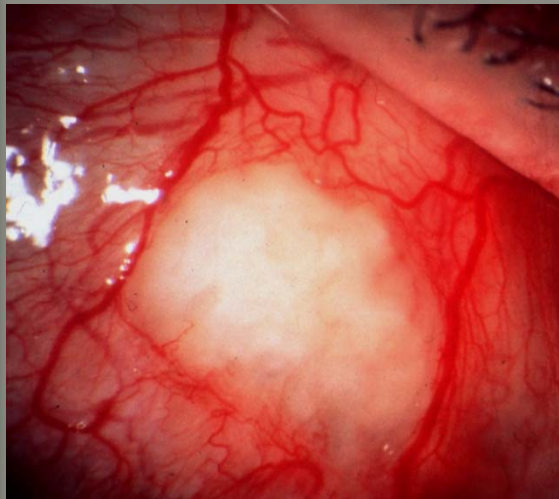
## Treatment

- Oral NSAIDs
- Oral steroids if unresponsive

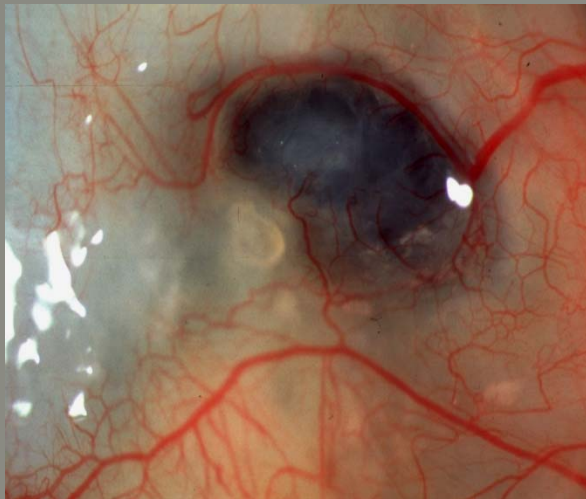


# Anterior necrotizing scleritis

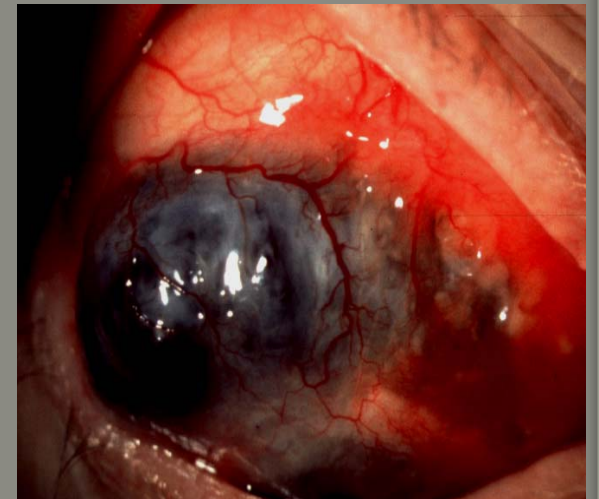
- Painful and most severe type
- Complications - uveitis, keratitis, cataract and glaucoma



Avascular patches



Scleral necrosis and visibility of uvea



Spread and coalescence of necrosis

## Treatment

- Oral steroids
- Immunosuppressive agents (cyclophosphamide, azathioprine, cyclosporin)
- Combined intravenous steroids and cyclophosphamide if unresponsive

# Systemic Associations of Scleritis

## 1. Rheumatoid arthritis

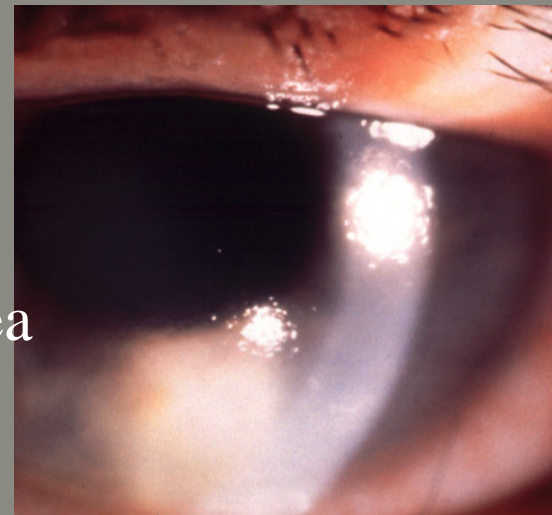
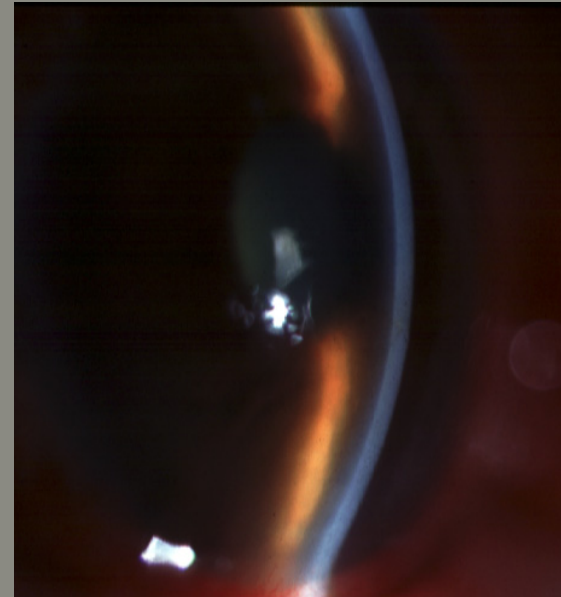
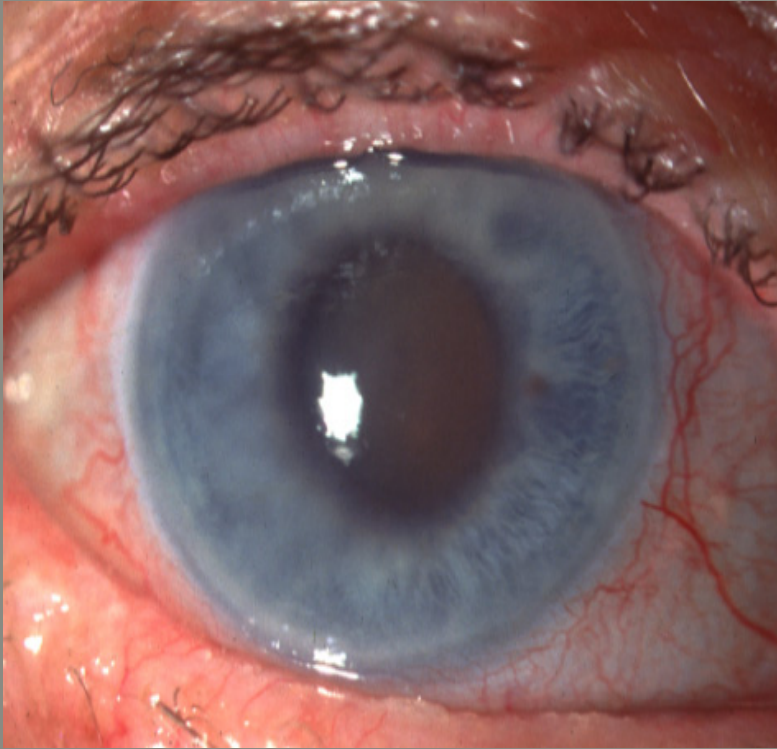
## 2. Connective tissue disorders

- Wegener granulomatosis
- Polyteritis nodosa
- Systemic lupus erythematosus

## 3. Miscellaneous

- Relapsing polychondritis
- Herpes zoster ophthalmicus
- Surgically induced

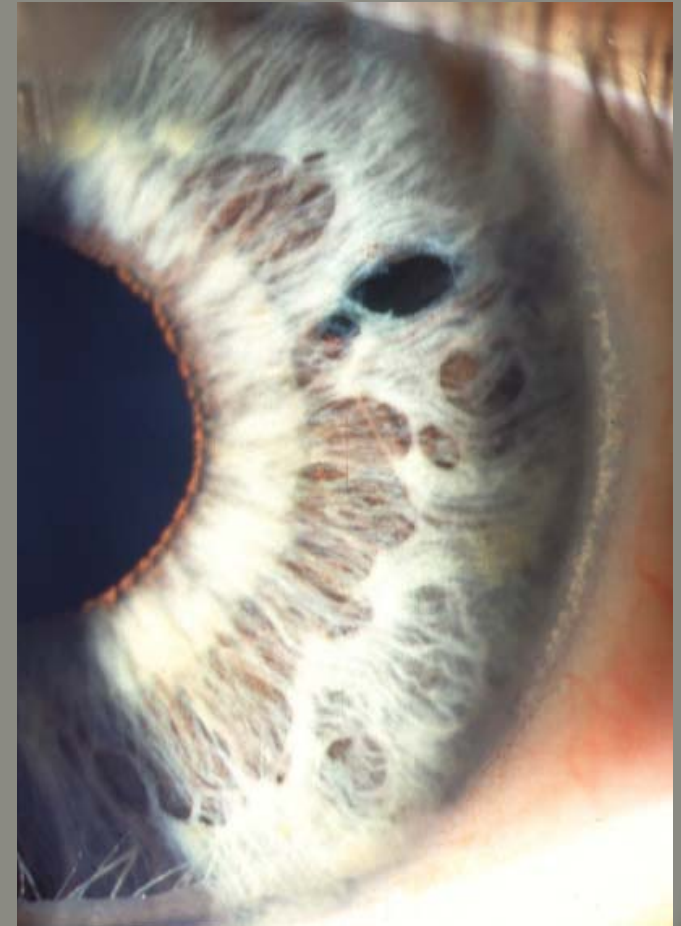
# Angle-closure glaucoma



Urgent referral  
Oval pupil, pain, loss vision, dull cornea  
Pain may be referred to frontal sinus  
Often nausea and vomit

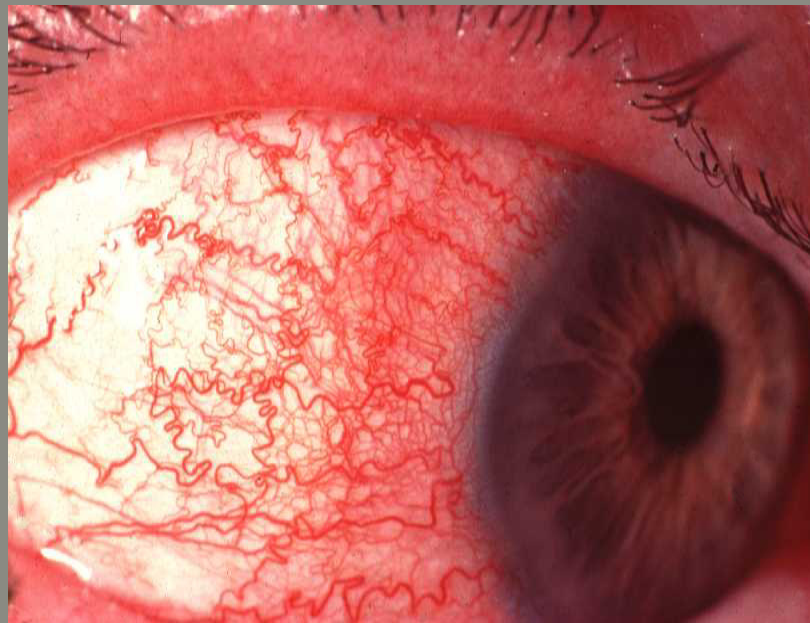
# Treatment of Acute Angle-Closure Glaucoma

1. Acetazolamide i.v.
2. Topical therapy
  - Pilocarpine 2% to both eyes
  - Beta-blockers
  - Steroids
3. Hyperosmotic agents
4. YAG laser iridotomy
  - To both eyes when cornea is clear



# Acute anterior uveitis

- Majority are men
- 45% are positive for HLA-B27
- Initially no systemic disease
- Minority subsequently develop ankylosing spondylitis
- If chronic disease - OK for GP to prescribe steroids while awaiting ophthalmic review

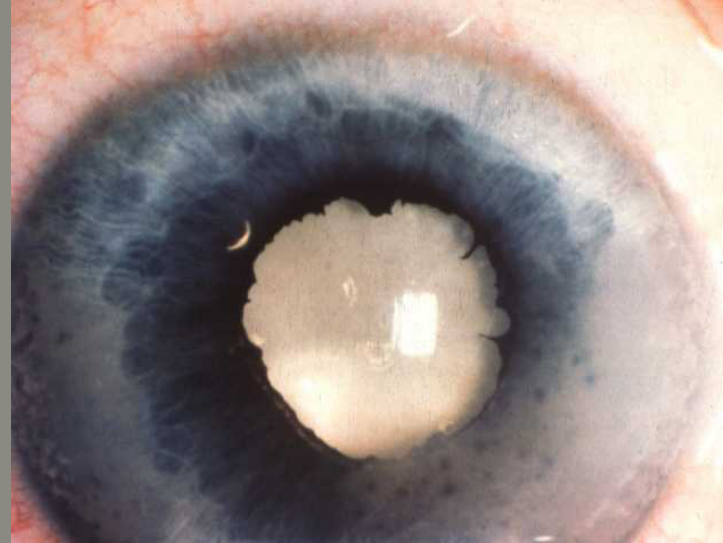


The Red Eye - Mr Vaughan Tanner

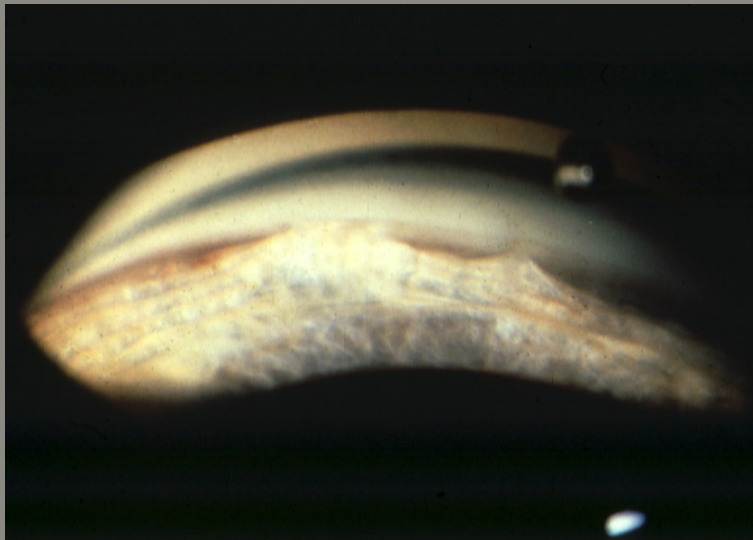
# Complications of uveitis



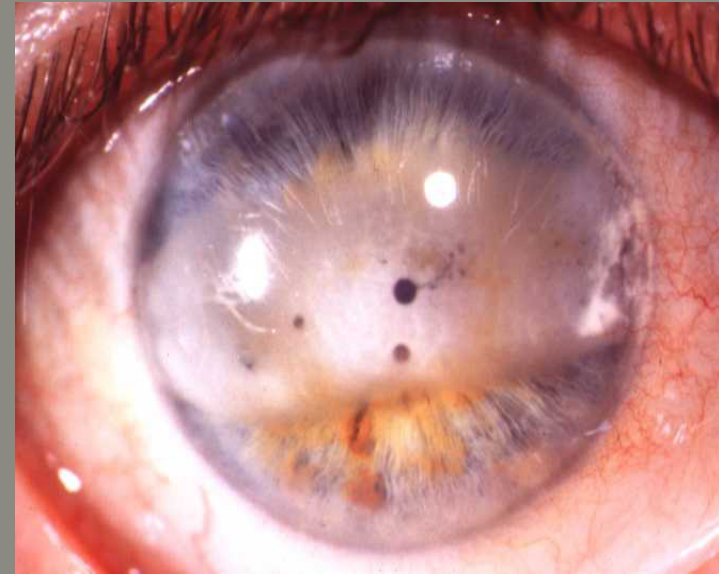
Posterior synechiae



Cataract

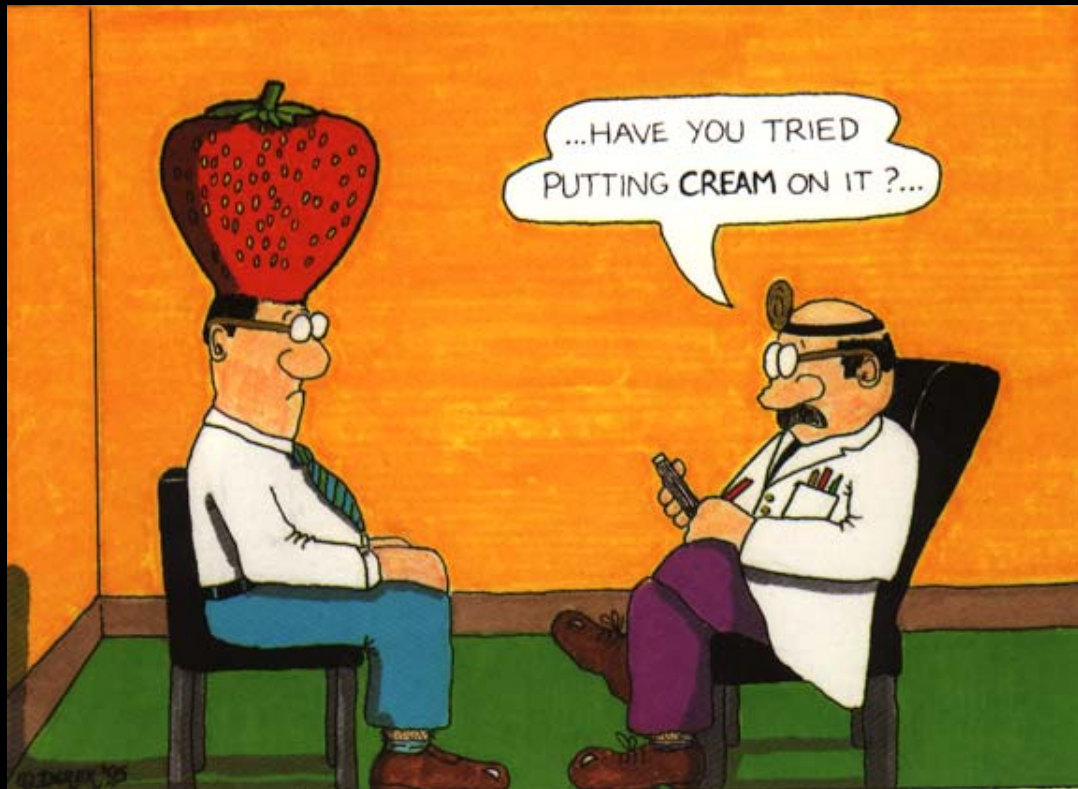


Glaucoma



Band keratopathy

**I am happy to take questions on red eye  
or any other topic to:  
[secretary@tanner-eyes.co.uk](mailto:secretary@tanner-eyes.co.uk)**



**Further info at  
[www.tanner-eyes.co.uk](http://www.tanner-eyes.co.uk)**