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### **Ocular Flora Changes in Adenoviral conjunctivitis: Do antibiotics play any role in the treatment?**

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Introduction: Rarely, viral conjunctivitis due to adenoviruses is responsible for the patient's visits to the ophthalmologist. Characteristic clinical features may guide its diagnosis; and the management does not require use of antibiotics.

Purpose: To study the aerobic bacterial conjunctiva flora in subjects with clinically diagnosed acute viral conjunctivitis.

Methods: Conjunctiva scrapings for microbiological culture were performed in 30 patients between the age of 18 and 40 years. Symptoms should have started within 4 days or less. Age-matched control subjects were randomly selected and submitted to the same specimen collection procedure.

Patients with previous history of ocular or systemic pathology, also under any topical or systemic medications were excluded, as well as contact lens wearers.

Results: In 10 samples (33,3%), bacterial growth was observed. Haemophilus sp (5 samples-50%) together with Streptococcus pneumoniae (5 samples-50%) was the microorganism's isolated. No growth of components of the normal flora was noted.

In the control group, 2 samples (10%), showed bacterial growth. The rate of positive culture was significantly different between the groups.

Conclusion: In the acute phase of viral conjunctivitis, bacteria not previously described to constitute the ocular normal flora were recovered from the conjunctiva. Specific therapy did not seem to be necessary, even though further investigations concerning its clinical implications are vital to provide evidence-based conclusions.