

R1  R2  R3  PG0  PG1  Estagiário  Tecnólogo   
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## **CORRELATION BETWEEN PATIENT-REPORTED SYMPTOMS AND OBJECTIVE TESTING IN SJÖGREN ´S SYNDROME**

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**Purpose:** The aim of this paper was to study the correlation between the intensity of symptoms described and the severity of ocular surface disease in a population of Sjögren ´s syndrome patients. The influence of the corneal sensitivity in the variation of the complaints described was also evaluated. **Methods:** Two groups were constituted: Study Group, formed by 17 Sjögren ´s syndrome patients based on European-American criteria and Control Group, formed by 25 normal subjects. For evaluation of the specific impact of dry eye, the Ocular Surface Disease Index questionnaire (OSDI) was administered to both groups. All individuals were submitted to the accomplishment of the following tests: Schirmer I, Schirmer II, the ocular surface staining with Rose Bengal, corneal thickness and corneal sensitivity tested with Cochet-Bonnet esthesiometer. For statistical analysis the correlations between signs and symptoms were studied using Spearman correlational analysis. To the comparison of the averages values of the questionnaire and clinical tests between Study Group and Control Group, t test for independent samples was used. **Results:** Results demonstrated weak correlation between signs and symptoms, what indicates that nor all the patients that presented exuberant symptoms exhibited tests proportionally altered. The average of the corneal sensitivity on Study Group was reduced when compared to controls. All the parameters studied in the Study Group presented significant differences when compared to controls. **Conclusions:** The relationship between patient-reported symptoms and objective testing for dry eyes was weak. Symptoms were generally not associated with clinical signs in Sjögren ´s syndrome. The reduction of the corneal sensitivity found in the Case Group can be one of the responsible factors for this weak association. All the parameters studied were significantly altered on Sjögren ´s syndrome patients when compared to the Control Group.