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Service (sector) Trauma - EMERGENCY AND TRAUMA N° CEP 01511/06

Viral Conjunctivitis at a Tertiary Ophthalmic Center in São Paulo.

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Purpose: Viral conjunctivitis is the most common conjunctival infection. We studied the seasonality and demographic features of patients with acute viral conjunctivitis receiving care at a tertiary ophthalmic center.

Methods: Prospective observational study. Patients with acute viral conjunctivitis that presented to the Ophthalmic Emergency Room, São Paulo Hospital - UNIFESP from September/2005 to August/2006 were included. Diagnosis was based on clinical presentation. Patients with specific signs of herpetic or chlamydial infection were excluded. Data regarding age and sex were collected. Frequency of viral conjunctivitis among different seasons were compared using the Chi-Square method with Bonferroni correction for multiple comparisons

Results: Viral conjunctivitis accounted for 16.7% of all patients (N=29425) receiving eye care at the Ophthalmic Emergency Room, São Paulo Hospital – UNIFESP, during the studied period. A higher frequency of this diagnosis was observed in April (20.2%) and May (20.1%). Frequency showed a significant seasonal variation: Fall (19.7%) > Winter (17.9%) > Spring (15.1%) > Summer (12.4%) (P<0,01 for all comparisons). Mean age was 32 years (15d to 90y) and 56.3% of them were female.

Conclusions: Viral conjunctivitis is a frequent diagnosis among patients seen at the emergency room, with a higher frequency during the fall.