

Conjunctivitis (Acute Bacterial)

Follow-up Advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consult GP if no signs of improvement after 48 hrs or symptoms worsen
Counselling Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advise that the risk of a serious complication from untreated infective conjunctivitis is low.• Clean away infected secretions from eyelids and lashes with cotton wool soaked in water• Remove contact lenses, if worn, until all symptoms and signs of infection have completely resolved and any treatment has been completed for 24 hours.• Advise on correct administration of eye drops• Wash hands thoroughly and avoid sharing towels / facecloths as eye infection is highly contagious• Course of antibiotic eye drops or ointment is for 5 days even if symptoms improve• The ointment is a viscous option possibly preferable when treating the young or elderly• Patients may experience a transient burning or stinging sensation with treatment• Hypersensitive reactions possible though rare• A cold compress may soothe the eye• Store the eye drops in a refrigerator and discard the drops/ointment after 5 days use• Blurred vision can occur, do not drive or operate machinery unless vision is clear.