WHY DOES THE EYE GET RED?

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OBJECTIVES

■To identify what is red when looking at a "red eye"

To identify where the redness may be located anatomically

To learn the different etiologies of a "red eye"

WHAT IS RED IN A "RED EYE"?



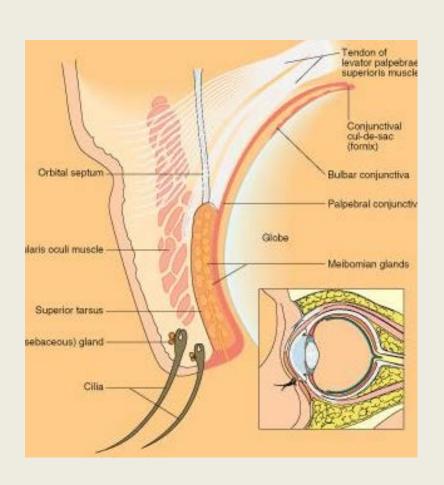
Blood!

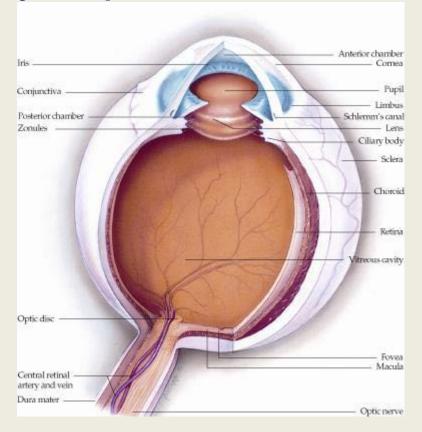




ANATOMY REVIEW

Anatomic location of blood in "red eye" helps narrow the differential







WHERE IS THE REDNESS ANATOMICALLY?

- Blood in the conjunctiva, within prominent or dilated superficial vessels.
 - Conjunctival Injection
- Blood outside of the vessels, between the sclera and the conjunctiva
 - Subconjunctival hemorrhage
- Blood within the eye, pooled in the anterior chamber
 - Hyphema









- Blood in the conjunctiva, within prominent or dilated superficial vessels.
- Pathologies from different anatomic origins can all manifest with conjunctival injection
- Several different mechanisms can lead to conjunctival injection
 - Inflammation
 - Irritation
 - Infection
 - Increased blood flow

- Identifying geographic patterns redness on the conjunctiva can help further narrow your differential
 - Diffuse: Injection throughout conjunctiva
 - Sectoral/focal: Injection limited to specific area of conjunctiva
 - Ciliary Flush: Ring of injection surrounding the cornea







Lids/Lashes

Blepharitis



Post-Septal Orbital cellulitis

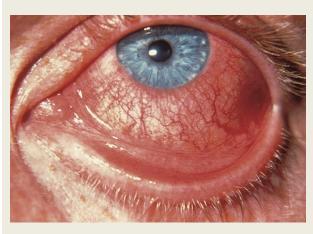


Conjunctiva

Viral Conjunctivitis

Bacterial Conjunctivitis

Allergic Conjunctivitis

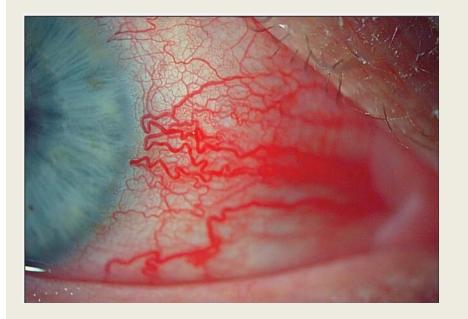






Sclera

Episcleritis



Scleritis



Cornea

Keratitis/Corneal Ulceration

Dry Eye

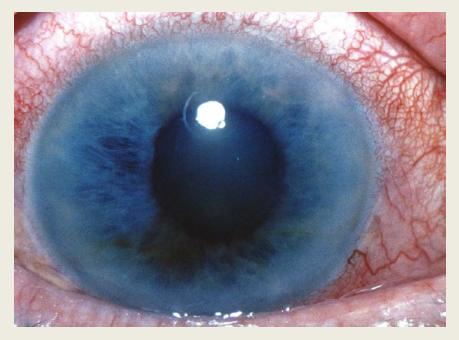
Corneal Abrasion

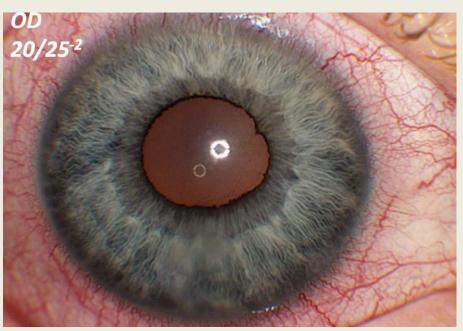


Anterior Chamber

Acute Angle Closure Glaucoma

Anterior Uveitis / Iritis





SUBCONJUNCTIVAL HEMORRHAGE





SUBCONJUNCTIVAL HEMORRHAGE

- Blood outside of the vessels, between the sclera and the conjunctiva
 - Blood is NOT inside the eye
- Caused by rupture of capillaries
- Can look scary (especially to patients), but subconjunctival hemorrhages usually require no treatment, resolve spontaneously and do NOT affect vision.



HYPHEMA



HYPHEMA

- Blood within the eye, pooled in the anterior chamber
 - This is a true intraocular hemorrhage
- Typically caused by blunt trauma
 - Often due to tears in the highly vascular iris
- Traumatic inflammation and obstruction of aqueous humor drainage can lead to concurrent conjunctival injection



CONCLUSION

- Objectives
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