

# Red eyes red flags



Pain



Vision reduced



Photophobia



Contact lens use



Recent ocular surgery
























Trauma



Known inflammatory/  
autoimmune condition

## Differential diagnosis and key features of the acute unilateral red eye

Diagnosis	Key features	Red Flags*	Refer
<b>Sub-conjunctival haemorrhage</b>	Painless, very red eye		If you have concerns
<b>Conjunctivitis</b> • Bacterial • Allergic • Viral (eg adenovirus)	Discomfort, purulent discharge		If you have concerns
	Discomfort, itchy, watery discharge, mildly red eye		If you have concerns
	Discomfort, watery discharge (can have reduced vision and pseudomembrane formation)		If you have concerns
<b>Uveitis</b>	Moderate pain, photophobia, vision reduced, may have known autoimmune	   	Within 24 hours
<b>Post operative endophthalmitis</b>	Severe pain, photophobia, vision reduced	   	Immediately
<b>Keratitis – bacterial/fungal/herpetic</b>	Moderate – severe pain, vision reduced, photophobia, corneal infiltrate, purulent discharge, stains with fluorescein	   	Within 24 hours
<b>Scleritis</b>	Severe pain, vision reduced, very red “brawny” eye, may have known autoimmune	  	Within 24 hours
<b>Acute glaucoma</b>	Severe pain, loss of vision, fixed mid-dilated pupil	 	Immediately
<b>Trauma</b>	History of trauma including superficial foreign body, intraocular foreign body, chemical burn, blunt, penetrating	  	Immediately

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\* List these in the referral letter

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