

REVISTA SOCIEDAD COLOMBIANA DE OFTALMOLOGÍA



Oftalmología en imágenes

Ophthalmology in images

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REFERENCIA: Roberts K. Eye adnexal chemical injury. Rev SCO. 2018; 51(1): 92

INFORMACIÓN ARTÍCULO

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A 22 year old university student presented to the emergency department after experiencing bilateral conjunctival injection and periorbital swelling. The symptoms had been present for approximately 24 hours and were gradually worsening. She had developed epiphora and foreign body sensation. The right periorbital area had become severely swollen and she had difficulty opening the right eye. Her acuity remained normal bilaterally. Her systemic examination demonstrated a normal white blood cell count, she was afebrile and did not have any associated sinus disease. She was otherwise healthy and did not take any medications other than an oral contraceptive.

The day prior to her symptoms starting she attended an esthetic appointment where she underwent brow and lash tinting. This is a process where a chemical dye is used to darken the color of the eyebrows and eyelashes. The application was done by an esthetician in training and perhaps applied the dye in an improper concentration, or for a prolonged duration. The patient was diagnosed with acute chemical injury to the brow, lids and conjunctiva. She was treated initially with systemic antibiotics for a period of 24 hours to ensure there was not a secondary infection and subsequently started on oral prednisone. She was also placed on topical steroid drops as well as copious applications of a tear gel. She recovered fully within 7 days.



Figure 1. Bilateral conjunctivitis, predominantly right sided periorbital swelling and note the acute dermatitis of the eyebrows.



Figure 2. Note the exaggerated swelling in the area of the right temple.