

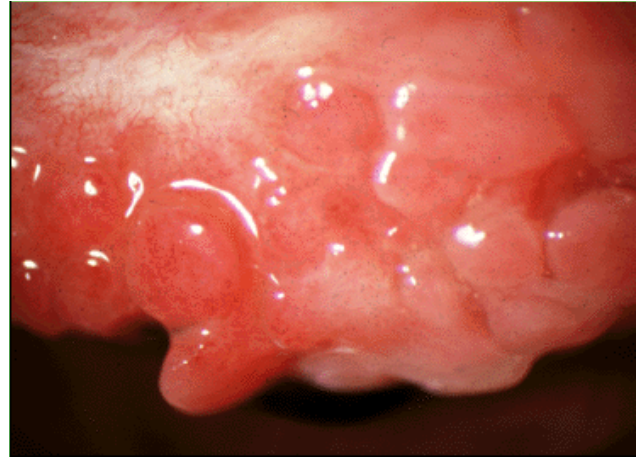
GIANT PAPILLARY CONJUNCTIVITIS.

Giant papillary conjunctivitis may occur in as many as 20% of soft lens wearers.

It is usually found by everting the upper lid, where giant papillary hypertrophy of the tarsal conjunctiva is found, more marked at the upper border of the tarsal plate. This condition is considered an antigen-antibody allergic type of inflammation or the mechanical irritation of a foreign body.

Treatment

It responds to local steroids or nonsteroidal medication, such as Na cromoglycate drops or Rapitol (Na Nedocromil) eye drops. . A period of not wearing the lenses for 2 weeks or longer, vigorous cleaning of the soft lens, or replacement with fresh lenses may be required. At times, switching to a new type of soft lens such as a glycerol-based lens or a rigid lens is indicated. This condition affects a smaller proportion of patients with rigid lenses. Occasionally, reducing the diameter of the soft lens is sufficient to break the cycle of inflammation, renewed and excessive protein formation, heavy protein deposits on the lens, and more inflammation.



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