

Conjunctivitis prevalence higher for adult women than men

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(HealthDay)—Adult women have a higher prevalence of conjunctivitis

than men, and cases peak in the spring, according to a research letter published online Sept. 14 in *JAMA Ophthalmology*.

David A. Ramirez, from the University of California in San Francisco, and colleagues calculated national estimates of encounters with a primary diagnosis of acute [conjunctivitis](#), and estimated the incidence of conjunctivitis diagnosed in the [emergency department](#) using population figures from the 2010 U.S. decennial census as the denominator.

From 2010 through 2013, 555,740 encounters in U.S. emergency departments that resulted in a primary diagnosis of conjunctivitis were identified. The researchers found that there was a bimodal distribution of conjunctivitis diagnosed in the emergency department, with the highest rates in children younger than 7 years and a minor mode in early adulthood. When the analysis was restricted to individuals age 18 years and older, conjunctivitis was more common among women, with a minor mode seen in women and men at ages 22 and 28 years, respectively. Among all ages, conjunctivitis cases had significant seasonality; children aged 0 to 4 years had a peak in conjunctivitis presentations in March, while other age groups had a peak in May.

"We believe caregiver proximity to young [children](#) likely explains the peak of conjunctivitis in [early adulthood](#) but cannot prove this hypothesis from our data," the authors write.

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