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## Evaluation of patients with dry eye disease for the presence of conjunctival *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Ureaplasma urealyticum* infection

Maha M Abdelfattah<sup>1</sup>, Magda H Mahran<sup>1</sup>, Rania A Khattab<sup>2</sup> and Ebrahim S Elborgy<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Research Institute of Ophthalmology, Egypt

<sup>2</sup>Cairo University, Egypt

**Aim:** To determine the possibility of the development of dry eye disease (DED) as a result of persistent infection with *C. trachomatis* and *U. urealyticum* in patients' conjunctiva.

**Methods:** This study included 58 patients age range 20-50 years, diagnosed with DED. Control subjects were 27 non-dry eye group (same age range). Conjunctival scrapings were collected for bacterial culture and for detection of *C. trachomatis* and *U. urealyticum* by Direct Fluorescent Antibody (DFA) and Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) methods.

**Results:** *C. trachomatis* was detected in 65.5% and 76% of DED patients by DFA and PCR methods, respectively. *U. urealyticum* was found in 44.8% of DED patients by PCR method. Both organisms were identified in 37.9% of DED patients. Control subjects had *C. trachomatis* (22%) by DFA assay versus 7% by PCR; while *U. urealyticum* was detected in 3.7% by PCR. Conjunctival culture revealed coagulase negative Staphylococcus (CONS) the most common organism followed by *Staphylococcus aureus*, where as gram negative *Moraxella* spp. was frequently isolated.

**Conclusion:** Results indicate *C. trachomatis* and *U. urealyticum* were detected in DED patients, and implicated in its development. Conjunctival microflora could show some potential value.

### Biography

Maha M Abdelfattah has completed her MD from Kasr El Eini Cairo University, she is a lecturer and researcher at the Micro Biology department at the Research Institute of Ophthalmology. Moreover, she also works as the head of the Bacteriology Corneal Unit at the Research Institute of Ophthalmology. She has published several papers in reputed journals, and is also a member in the Egyptian Microbiology and Immunology Medical Society, in addition to the Egyptian Ophthalmological Society.

[maha-mohssen@hotmail.com](mailto:maha-mohssen@hotmail.com)

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