

## Brief Report

### Current Conjunctivitis Epidemic in India — A Tale of Two Bugs

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The month of July saw unprecedented rainfall, floods in north India forcing a major disruption in peoples lives<sup>1</sup>. Many were left without shelter and were forced to live in relief camps. July also saw a large number of rising cases of Conjunctivitis in Delhi and adjacent states<sup>2</sup>. Generally viral Conjunctivitis thrives in these types of situations. Hospitals and OPDs were loaded with these patients. Adenovirus was detected after laboratory investigations was done<sup>3</sup>. Viruses are responsible for causing more than 75 percent of infectious etiology of conjunctivitis<sup>4</sup>. It is estimated that up to 90 percent of viral infections are due to Adenovirus. A non-enveloped double stranded DNA virus<sup>5</sup>. The Adenovirus strains of 3, 4, 7 cause Pharyngoconjunctival fever. Adenovirus 8,19,37 cause Epidemic Keratoconjunctivitis. Month of July also saw rising cases of Conjunctivitis in most parts of Maharashtra. In Pune district there was an outbreak in Alandi region. Samples collected from National Institute of Virology, Pune detected Enteroviruses<sup>6</sup>. Enterovirus 70 and Coxsackie A24 are known and common causes of Acute Haemorrhagic Conjunctivitis. This is characterised by subconjunctival haemorrhage and also superficial punctate keratitis<sup>7</sup>. Although self-limiting, Conjunctivitis can be annoying and cause loss of man hours and in minority of cases lead to decrease of visual acuity and superadded bacterial infection. Fomites play a major role in transmission so proper precautions, isolation, hand hygiene, health education can play a huge role in mitigating the damage.

It is however unusual as two separate and unrelated viruses are causing this epidemic at the same time. Adenovirus being a double stranded DNA and Enteroviruses being single stranded positive sense RNA virus.

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