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A study testing whether a single eye drop of iodine can help patients recover faster from viral conjunctivitis

Submission date	Recruitment status	[_] Prospectively registered
14/10/2025	No longer recruiting	[_] Protocol
Registration date	**Overall study status**	[_] Statistical analysis plan
16/10/2025	Completed	[_] Results
Last Edited	**Condition category**	[X] Individual participant data
16/10/2025	Eye Diseases	[_] Record updated in last year

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims
Viral conjunctivitis is a common eye infection, often caused by adenovirus. It usually clears up on its own but can cause discomfort and spread quickly in the community. At present, there is no approved medicine that shortens recovery time. This study aims to test whether a single application of povidone-iodine (an antiseptic eye drop) can help patients recover faster compared with usual supportive care.

Who can participate?
Patients aged 14 years and above who came to the hospital within 3 days of developing red, painful eyes, swelling of the eyelids, discharge, or other typical signs of viral conjunctivitis.

What does the study involve?
Participants were randomly divided into two groups. One group received standard treatment (artificial tears and hygiene advice). The other group received the same treatment plus a single 5% povidone-iodine eye drop. Both groups were followed up on days 3, 7, 10, 14 and 21 to check improvement of symptoms and any side effects.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?
The possible benefit is a quicker recovery from viral conjunctivitis and reduced spread of infection. The treatment is generally safe and well-tolerated. The possible risks are mild eye irritation, which is temporary and not harmful.

Where is the study run from?
The study was carried out at Al-Kharkh General Hospital, Baghdad, Iraq.

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
The study began in February 2023 and ended in September 2023.

Who is funding the study?
The study was self-funded by the lead investigator.

Who is the main contact?
Dr. Rawan Ahmed Alatraqchi
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Contact information

Type(s)
Public, Scientific, Principal investigator

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Study information

Scientific Title
A prospective randomized clinical trial comparing a single-dose 5% povidone-iodine eye drop plus supportive care versus supportive care alone in patients with adenoviral conjunctivitis

Acronym
RAPID-I

Study objectives
To evaluate whether a single 5% povidone-iodine eye drop application shortens the recovery period and improves clinical outcomes in patients with adenoviral conjunctivitis compared to standard supportive care.

Ethics approval required
Ethics approval required

Ethics approval(s)
Approved 16/01/2023, Local Research and Ethics Committee of Al Karkh General Hospital (Baghdad / Al Karkh, Baghdad, 10010, Iraq; +964 7713014217; naseeranaser84@gmail.com), ref: LREC/AKGH/2023/042

Primary study design
Interventional

Study design
interventional randomized controlled trial

Study type(s)
Treatment

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
Adenovirus conjunctivitis

Interventions
The trial investigated whether a single-dose application of povidone-iodine could shorten recovery time in adenoviral conjunctivitis.

Intervention arm: Single application of 5% povidone-iodine ophthalmic solution to the affected eye(s) at the first visit, in addition to standard supportive care (artificial tears, cold compresses, hygiene advice).

Control arm: Standard supportive care only, without povidone-iodine.

Randomisation: Simple alternate allocation (non-blinded).

Duration: Single-dose intervention; supportive treatment continued for 7–10 days as required.

Follow-up: Clinical reviews on Day 3, Day 7, Day 10, and Day 14 (resolution of conjunctival hyperaemia, discharge, and follicular reaction).

All patient data have been fully anonymised before sharing, with personal identifiers replaced by coded study IDs to maintain confidentiality.

Intervention Type
Drug

Phase
Not Applicable

Drug/device/biological/vaccine name(s)
5% iodine

Primary outcome(s)
Time to clinical recovery from adenoviral conjunctivitis (days), measured from day of intervention until complete resolution of conjunctival congestion, tearing and discharge, assessed by slit-lamp examination and patient-reported symptoms

Key secondary outcome(s)
1. Change in symptom severity score (redness, tearing, foreign body sensation, discharge) measured using a standardized clinical grading scale at baseline, day 3, day 7, and day 14
2. Rate of symptom improvement (% of patients showing ≥50% reduction in symptoms by day 7)
3. Incidence of adverse events (ocular irritation, allergy, keratitis, or other complications) during the follow-up period

Completion date

01/09/2023

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria
1. Aged over 14 years
2. Presented within 3 days of symptoms and signs of ocular infection which included: redness, pain, lid swelling, mucopurulent discharge, lymphadenopathy and follicular reaction

Participant type(s)
Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed
No

Age group
Mixed

Lower age limit
14 Years

Sex
All

Total final enrolment
66

Key exclusion criteria
1. Age under 14 years
2. Onset of symptoms more than 3 days before presentation
3. Any ocular treatment received before presentation
4. Patients with existing ocular diseases

Date of first enrolment
01/02/2023

Date of final enrolment
01/09/2023

Locations

Countries of recruitment
Iraq

Study participating centre
Al Karkh General Hospital
9927 +8MC , al karkh
Baghdad

Iraq
10011

Sponsor information

Organisation
Al Karkh General Hospital

Funder(s)

Funder type
Other

Funder Name
Investigator initiated and funded

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan
The datasets generated and/or analysed during this study will be available upon reasonable request from the corresponding author.
Contact: Dr. Rawan Ahmed Alatraqchi (rawan.alatraqchi@gmail.com)
Type of data: De-identified participant-level clinical data (age, sex, symptoms, treatment group, outcome measures).
When available: From the date of publication of the main results and for up to 5 years thereafter.
Access criteria: Researchers with a methodologically sound proposal may request access. Data will be shared in anonymised form to protect participant confidentiality.
Restrictions: No personal identifiers will be shared. Ethical approval and participant consent included data use for research purposes.

IPD sharing plan summary
Available on request

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Dataset	xlsx		16/10/2025	No	No