

Herpes Simplex Keratitis

Signs and Symptoms

- Pain
- Red Eye
- Light sensitivity
- Irritation, scratchiness
- Decreased vision (depending on the location and extent of infection)
- Unilateral inflammation of Conjunctiva and cornea
- Dendritic ulcers on fluorescein staining of cornea
- Reduced corneal sensitivity
- Previous history of Herpes Keratitis
- Coexisting fever blister on lip or upper face
- Recent upper respiratory infection
- Absent history of corneal trauma

Interesting enough, the corneal infection or "*keratitis*" form of the disease is not the bodies first contact with the virus. The initial infection (*acute primary herpes simplex*) most often occurs in childhood. The primary exposure to the virus may cause multiple whitish blisters around the eye termed *viral eczema*. Infrequently, a mild eye infection may be present. The acute primary herpetic infection is generally self limiting, meaning that within a given period of time, the infection resolves without any treatment or medical intervention. The primary exposure to the virus may be so subtle that it may not even be noticed.

