

# CONJUNCTIVAL LESIONS CHAIRSIDE REFERENCE

## Features of Malignant Lesions

	OSSN	Lymphoma	Melanoma
<b>Location</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Unilateral</li> <li>■ Usually bulbar conjunctiva near limbus, especially nasally or temporally</li> <li>■ Potential corneal invasion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Unilateral</li> <li>■ Usually conjunctival fornix or bulbar region</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Unilateral</li> <li>■ Usually bulbar conjunctiva near limbus, especially temporally</li> <li>■ Possible invasion into sclera, cornea or orbit</li> </ul>
<b>Typical Appearance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Grey or white</li> <li>■ Gelatinous or leukoplakic</li> <li>■ Raised</li> <li>■ Dilated feeder vessels</li> <li>■ Surface irregularity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Salmon patch (fleshy, smooth, salmon-pink, painless, subepithelial, raised mass)</li> <li>■ Mobile over sclera</li> <li>■ Can be diffuse and mimic benign inflammatory lesions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Pigmented but can be non-pigmented</li> <li>■ Surrounding flat pigment</li> <li>■ Raised</li> <li>■ Dilated feeder vessels</li> <li>■ Growth over time or recurrence after excision</li> </ul>
<b>Risk Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Chronic UV light exposure</li> <li>■ Cigarette smoke exposure</li> <li>■ Fair complexion and light iris colour</li> <li>■ Male</li> <li>■ Older age</li> <li>■ HIV and immune deficiency</li> <li>■ Eczema/atopy</li> <li>■ Autoimmune conditions</li> <li>■ HPV infection (types 16, 18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Age between 60–70 years old</li> <li>■ HIV or immune deficiency</li> <li>■ Autoimmune conditions</li> <li>■ Chronic inflammation/infection</li> <li>■ History of systemic lymphoma</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Age between 55–65 years old</li> <li>■ Longstanding PAM or naevus</li> </ul> <p><i>Up to 75% of all conjunctival melanomas arise from PAM</i></p>



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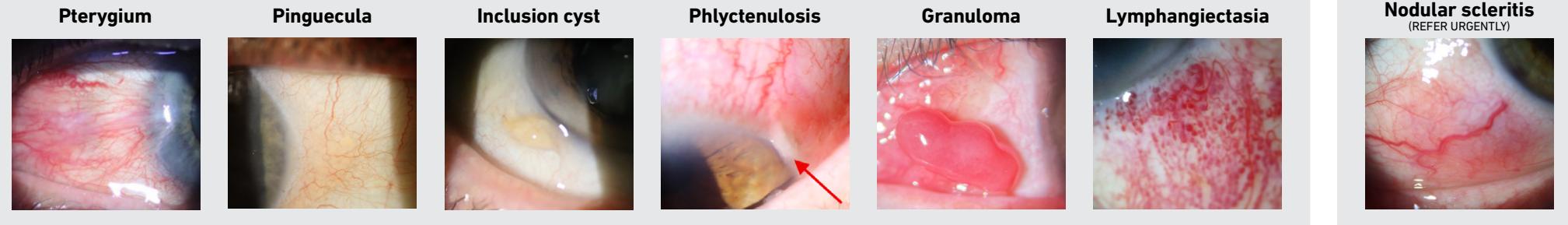
OSSN = ocular surface squamous neoplasia; PAM = primary acquired melanosis; HIV = human immunodeficiency virus; HPV = human papillomavirus; CAM = complexion-associated melanosis

**References:** 1. Gurnani B, Kaur K. Ocular Surface Squamous Neoplasia [Internet]. In: StatPearls. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2025 Jan– [updated 2023 Jul 31; cited 2025 Sep 17]. Available from: <https://linky.link/2F7q9>. 2. Tanenbaum RE et al. Classification, diagnosis, and management of conjunctival lymphoma. *Eye Vis (Lond)*. 2019;6:22. 3. Wong JR et al. Management of conjunctival malignant melanoma: a review and update. *Expert Rev Ophthalmol*. 2014;9(3):185–204. 4. Shields CL et al. A guide to conjunctival tumors. Review of Optometry. Published May 15, 2019. Accessed September 17, 2025. 5. Shields CL et al. Conjunctival Tumors: Review of Clinical Features, Risks, Biomarkers, and Outcomes--The 2017 J. Donald M. Gass Lecture. *Asia Pac J Ophthalmol (Phila)*. 2017;6(2):109–120.

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## DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSES

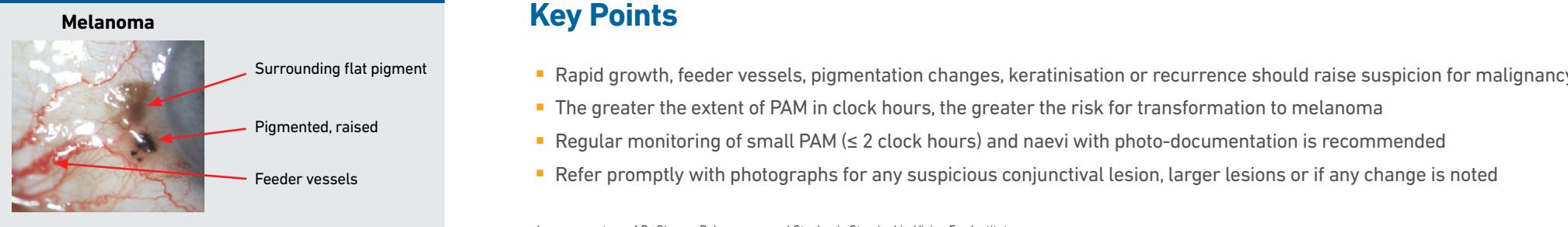
## BENIGN (NON-PIGMENTED)



## MALIGNANT (NON-PIGMENTED)



## MALIGNANT (PIGMENTED)



Images courtesy of Dr Simone Beheregaray and Stephanie Stavrinakis, Vision Eye Institute