

Subconjunctival Bleeding

<http://www.medterms.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=20358>

Eye bleed: Medically called a subconjunctival [hemorrhage](#). A very common cause of a painless bloody [eye](#) usually first noticed by somebody else or by the person with it when they look in the mirror. The bleeding results from a break in a small blood vessel in the [sclera](#), the white of the eye. This releases a tiny amount (less than a drop) of blood which is trapped underneath the [conjunctiva](#), much like the blood in a bruise is trapped in the skin. It is called a subconjunctival hemorrhage since it occurs beneath the conjunctiva, the transparent membrane covering the sclera.

A subconjunctival hemorrhage can occur with heavy lifting, coughing, sneezing, vomiting or for no apparent reason. It looks bad and may be frightening but is not dangerous and leaves no [residual](#) change in vision. There is no discharge from the eye. The redness may turn brown or green and everything returns to normal within 3 weeks as the blood is absorbed.

Subconjunctival hemorrhage does not require treatment. Any features not characteristic of subconjunctival hemorrhage (such as pain in the eye, a change in vision, or failure to clear up within 3 weeks, or [recurrent](#) hemorrhage) are reason to see a doctor. Medical conditions that can upon occasion cause subconjunctival hemorrhages include bleeding disorders, [blood-thinner](#) (such as [heparin](#) and [Coumadin](#)), and [high blood pressure](#).