

DEWS	DRY EYE: DIAGNOSTIC TEST TEMPLATE	
RAPPORTEUR	Barbara Caffery	Date: 22/10/04
TEST	McCarty Symptom Questionnaire	
TO DIAGNOSE	Test used to diagnose – the presence of dry eye disease in a large population.	McCarty et al 1998
VERSION of TEST	[1] There is only 1 version of this test.	McCarty et al 1998
DESCRIPTION	This test is given to patients to determine whether they have dry eye. It was used in a survey of a large population in Australia.	
CONDUCT of TEST	An interviewer administered the questionnaire. The results were entered directly into the computer. The questions and the descriptions were written for the interviewers so that all of the questions were standardized Only severe symptoms were used in the analysis of the data. These were divided between those severe symptoms that were associated with hay fever and those that were not.	
Web Video	NA	
Materials:	The subject is asked to grade the symptoms of: Ocular discomfort: foreign body sensation, itching, tearing, dryness and photophobia. The grades are: absent=0, mild=grade 1, moderate=grade 2, severe=grade 3. There are descriptive terms for each of the grades. When a symptom was present the subjects were asked whether they thought the symptom was related to hay fever. Dry Mouth: Also asked were presence of dry mouth: graded as: no history=0, mild=1, moderate=2, severe=3 Other History of RA or SS was recorded. Hormone status, cigarette use, alcohol use, and contact lens wear were recorded.	
Standardization	NA	
Diagnostic value	Diagnostic value is uncertain and there are no direct stats. If there are severe symptoms and hay fever is ruled out, the objective tests correlate better with the symptoms. Other version: [] this version or another cited version.	McCarty et al 1998
Repeatability	Intra-observer agreement. [] Inter-observer agreement. []	
Sensitivity	(true positives) []	
Specificity	(100 – false positives) []	
Test problems	There is no question about the length of time that the	

	symptoms have been present. Unknown specificity and sensitivity	
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Reference:

McCarty C, et al. The epidemiology of dry eye in Melbourne, Australia. *Ophthalmology* 1998;105:1114-1119.

The McCarty Questionnaire:

The subject is asked if they experience any of the following in their eyes:

1. Discomfort
2. Foreign body sensation
3. Itching
4. Tearing
5. Dryness
6. Photophobia

Then they were asked to grade each of the present symptoms from grade 1 to 3. grade 1 is mild, grade 2 is moderate and grade 3 is severe.

They were then asked if they believed that the each of the experienced symptoms were a result of hay fever.

Each of the grades of symptoms was described. It appears that the interviewer used these descriptive terms to help the subject choose the grade.

1. Discomfort:

Mild: awareness of one's eyes, difficulty in describing specific type of discomfort.

Moderate: ability to describe the pain modality in specific terms

Severe: Exquisite ocular, periocular, or radiating pain requiring analgesia.

2. Foreign Body Sensation:

Mild: similar to sensation of fine dust or powder in the eye.

Moderate: similar to the sensation of sand or dust in the eye.

Severe: similar to a sensation of a hot ember in the eye.

3. Itching:

Mild: awareness of intermittent sensation.

Moderate: intermittent sensation with the desire to rub.

Severe: constant awareness of sensation with rubbing.

4. Tearing:

Mild: positive sensation of fullness of the conjunctival sac without tears spilling over the lid margin.

Moderate: infrequent or intermittent spilling of tears over the lid margin.

Severe: constant or nearly constant spilling of tears over the lid margin.

5. Dryness:

Mild: infrequent or intermittent discomfort in the eyes.

Moderate: more frequent but less than constant symptoms.

Severe: constant or near constant symptoms of dryness that require lubricating drops 4+ times per day.

6. Photophobia:

Mild: very minimal light intolerance which may require some degree of sun glass protection to eliminate the symptom.

Moderate: infrequent or intermittent discomfort in the globe associated with exposure to room light or sunlight which is only partially relieved by dark glasses or subdued light.

Severe: constant or nearly constant pain in the eye that is not relieved by sunglasses and is only relieved by total occlusion of the eye.