

Table 6-1. Differential Diagnosis for Persistent Corneal Epithelial Defect

Abnormal eyelid position or function

- Floppy eyelid syndrome
- Lower eyelid ectropion or entropion
- Lagophthalmos
- Trichiasis

Keratoconjunctivitis sicca

Limbal stem cell deficiency

Neurotrophic keratitis

- Diabetes
- Herpetic
- Nerve damage

Ocular surface irregularities

- Band keratopathy
- Dellen
- Salzmann nodule

Toxicity from topical medications

Trauma

Signs and Symptoms. Foreign body sensation, redness, tearing, or small elevated nodules adjacent to engorged vessels (Figure 6-9) may be present, usually at the limbus, conjunctiva, or cornea.

Exams and Tests. Evaluate for *Staphylococcal blepharitis*, rule out tuberculosis; culture if suspicious for infection.

Treatment. Treat underlying blepharitis or infection, antibiotic ointment, topical corticosteroids QID, oral doxycycline or tetracycline.