

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

Agent: *Chlamydia trachomatis* (bacteria) or *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (bacteria), though *C. trachomatis* is most common.

Mode of Transmission: Infants are exposed to the organism in the birth canal during childbirth.

Signs/Symptoms: Redness or swelling of one or both eyes beginning five to fourteen days after birth.

Prevention: Screening of all pregnant women for chlamydia and gonorrhea infection, followed with appropriate treatment for infected women and their partner(s).

Ten infants were reported with ophthalmia neonatorum in 2008. Eight were caused by *C. trachomatis* and two by *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*.