

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

Agent: *Chlamydia trachomatis* (bacteria) or *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (bacteria), although *C. trachomatis* is more 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: All pregnant women should be screened for chlamydia and gonorrhea infection, followed with appropriate treatment for infected women and their partner(s).

Seven infants were reported with ophthalmia neonatorum in 2009. Six were caused by *C. trachomatis* and one by *N. gonorrhoeae*.