

## **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. Women who were infected with *C. trachomatis* or *N. gonorrhoeae* in the first trimester of pregnancy should be retested during the third trimester to prevent postnatal infection in the infant. A prophylactic agent should be instilled into the eyes of all newborn infants.

<b>Ophthalmia Neonatorum: 2013 Data Summary</b>	
Number of Cases:	4
5-Year Average Number of Cases:	8.6
% Change from 5-Year Average:	-53%
Incidence Rate per 100,000:	0.0

During 2013, four infants were reported with ophthalmia neonatorum caused by infection with *C. trachomatis* in Virginia. No cases caused by *N. gonorrhoeae* were reported. The four cases represent a 53% decrease from the five-year average of 8.6 cases statewide per year.