

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). Additionally, a prophylactic agent should be instilled into the eyes of all newborn infants.

Eleven infants were reported with ophthalmia neonatorum in 2012. This is slightly higher than the five-year average of 7.4 cases per year. All of the infections occurring in 2012 were caused by *C. trachomatis*.