

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

Fact Sheet

What is it?

Neonatal conjunctivitis, also known as ophthalmia neonatorum, is a form of bacterial conjunctivitis or eye infection newborns can get during delivery. The baby's eyes are contaminated during passage through the birth canal from a mother infected with either *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* or *Chlamydia trachomatis*.

How is it treated?

Eyedrops containing erythromycin are used to prevent the condition. If left untreated, it can cause blindness.

Other Questions?

Talk to your health care provider or call our Communicable Disease Program at 613-966-5500 x349.
Toll Free 1-800-267-2803 | TTY Dial 711 (1-800-267-6511) | www.hpepublichealth.ca

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