

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

Definition

Conjunctivitis occurring within the 1st 4 weeks of life

Gonococcal

Bilateral purulent conjunctival discharge within first few days of life.

Treatment:

- systemic:
 - Ceftriaxone 50mg/kg (max. 125mg) IV or IM once daily for 2-3 days
 - Cefotaxime 50mg/kg/day IV in two divided doses 12 hourly for 2-3 days
- disseminated infection : duration 7 days; If meningitis : 10-14 days*
- local:
 - irrigate eyes with sterile normal saline and at least hourly as long as necessary to eliminate discharge. Topical antibiotics are optional.
- refer to ophthalmologist for assessment
- check VDRL of the infant to exclude congenital syphilis, screen for C. trachomatis and HIV. Screen both parents for Gonococcal infections, syphilis and HIV.
- parents should be referred to STD clinic for further management.
- on discharge, infants should be seen at 2 weeks with repeat eye swab gram stain and C&S

Non- Gonococcal

Include *Staph aureus*, *Strep viridans*, *Haemophilus*, *E.coli*, *Pseudomonas* infections

Treatment:

- local – Neomycin eye ointment 0.5% after feed, both eyes or
Ceftazidime 5% bd to qid for a week
(change according to sensitivity ,duration according to response)

Chlamydial

Unilateral or bilateral conjunctivitis with peak incidence at 2 weeks of life

Treatment:

- during 1st week of life :
 - oral Erythromycin 20mg/kg/d (< 2kg), or 30 mg/kg/d (>2 kg) in divided doses
- >1 week age:
 - oral Erythromycin 40mg/kg/d PO in divided doses
 - duration of treatment = 14 days*
- local Rx: tetracycline ointment 1% q6H for 7-14 days
- *systemic treatment is essential. Local treatment is unnecessary if systemic treatment given.*
- refer both parent to STD clinic for further management
- refer to ophthalmologist for assessment of ocular complications

Gonococcal Infections in Older Children

- suspect child abuse.
- children over 45 kg or 12 years old should receive adult regimens.
- for children < 45 kg or < 12 years old with uncomplicated vulvovaginitis and urethritis
 - Ceftriaxone 125mg IM single injection or
 - Spectinomycin 40mg/kg IM single injection

Input from Dr Joseph Alagaratnam , Consultant Paediatric Ophthalmologist HKL , is acknowledged.