

Abstract

BACKGROUND: In up to 73% of ophthalmia neonatorum, *Chlamydia trachomatis* is the causative agents. Untreated sequelae to the eyes and organs may be the result. The aim of this study was to determine the bacterial spectrum of ophthalmia neonatorum with special regard to chlamydia and their diagnostic tests. **MATERIALS AND METHODS:** We compared the results of 15 newborn with ophthalmia neonatorum. For the diagnosis we used a rapid diagnostic test, Immunofluorescent Antibody Staining and Culture on McCoy cells. Bacteria that were cultured on culture media were also identified. **RESULTS:** In 66% the newborn showed a positive rapid diagnostic test result that was confirmed by Immunofluorescent Antibody Staining. In 5 patients all tests were negative. **CONCLUSIONS:** In this study *C. trachomatis* was the most frequent pathogen. In the culture media we isolated mostly gram-positive cocci but not *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*. We point out the value of an exact rapid diagnosis and specific treatment to avoid sequelae to the eye and organs.