

Ophthalmia neonatorum in Nairobi, Kenya: the roles of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* and *Chlamydia trachomatis*

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Abstract:

Among 149 consecutive infants with ophthalmia neonatorum in Nairobi, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* was recovered from 43%, *Chlamydia trachomatis* from 13%, and both microorganisms from 4%. Three of five isolates of *C. trachomatis* belonged to trachoma serovars. The sensitivity and specificity of a gram-stained smear for the diagnosis of gonococcal conjunctivitis were 86% and 90%, respectively. Patients with gonococcal conjunctivitis had more purulent discharge, a higher clinical severity score, and a younger age at onset of disease. Corneal epithelial edema with superficial keratitis was present in four (16%) of 25 patients with gonococcal conjunctivitis but in none of 22 other patients ($P = .07$). *N. gonorrhoeae* or *C. trachomatis* was isolated from the pharynx in 11 (15%) and six (23%) cases, respectively. Oropharyngeal gonococcal infection was associated with coughing ($P = .007$).