## Ocular Prophylaxis for Gonococcal Ophthalmia Neonatorum

### Clinical Summary of U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Reaffirmation Recommendation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>All newborn infants</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recommendation</strong></td>
<td>Provide prophylactic ocular topical medication for the prevention of gonococcal ophthalmia neonatorum.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grade</strong></td>
<td>A</td>
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### Risk Assessment

All newborns should receive prophylaxis. However, some newborns are at increased risk, including those with a maternal history of no prenatal care, sexually transmitted infections, or substance abuse.

### Preventive Interventions

Preventive medications include 0.5% erythromycin ophthalmic ointment, 1.0% solution of silver nitrate, and 1.0% tetracycline ointment. All are considered equally effective; however, the latter two are no longer available in the United States.

### Timing of Intervention

Within 24 hours after birth.

### Relevant USPSTF Recommendations

Several recommendations on screening and counseling for infectious diseases and perinatal care can be found at [http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/](http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/).

For a summary of the evidence systematically reviewed in making these recommendations, the full recommendation statement, and supporting documents, please go to [http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/](http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/).