

## CONJUNCTIVITIS

### Supporting information

This guideline has been prepared with reference to the following:

Workowski KA, Bachmann LH, Chan PA et al. Sexually Transmitted Infections Treatment Guidelines, 2021. MMWR Recomm Rep. 2021;70:1-187

<https://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment-guidelines/gonorrhea-neonates.htm>

#### **What are the most common causative organisms in bacterial conjunctivitis?**

No evidence-based clinical guidelines on the condition have been identified. A prospective study in 87 children aged 1 month to 18 years in the United States (Patel, 2006) found that non-typeable *Haemophilus influenzae* accounted for 82% of cases (n=71), *Streptococcus pneumoniae* for 16% (n=14) and *Staphylococcus aureus* for 2.2% (n=2).

Patel PB, Diaz MC, Bennett JE, et al. Clinical features of bacterial conjunctivitis in children. *Acad Emerg Med* 2007;14:1-5

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1197/j.aem.2006.08.006/epdf>

**Evidence Level: IV**

#### **Is the topical application of breast milk an effective treatment for conjunctivitis?**

The use of human milk in the treatment of ocular surface disease is documented in ancient Egyptian, Indian, Greek, Roman and Byzantine texts. Galen recommended human milk specifically for conjunctivitis (Hirschberg, 1982). Ocular application of human milk continues today in the developing world, and is recommended in widely distributed parenting guidebooks. Despite these endorsements, the antibacterial activity of topically applied breast milk has not been adequately studied.

A laboratory study using milk from 23 women found that breast milk was not an effective inhibitor of bacteria responsible for most cases of conjunctivitis, and hence was unlikely to be an effective treatment (Baynham, 2013).

Baynham JT, Moorman MA, Donnellan C et al. Antibacterial effect of human milk for common causes of paediatric conjunctivitis. *Br J Ophthalmol*. 2013;97:377-9

<http://bjo.bmj.com/content/97/3/377.2.long>

Hirschberg J, Blodi FC. trans. *The history of ophthalmology*. Vol 1. Antiquity . Bonn: Verlag J. P. Wayenborgh, 1982

**Evidence Level: V**

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