

EYE PROPHYLAXIS INFORMED CONSENT AND WAIVER

Erythromycin ophthalmic ointment is routinely given to newborns when they are born in the hospital, to prevent an infection of the tissue surrounding the eye (conjunctivitis), which if not treated, can lead to blindness. Conjunctivitis can be caused by both normal bacteria or bacteria associated with a sexually transmitted disease such as Gonorrhea or Chlamydia that may be present in the birthing woman's reproductive tract without her having any symptoms of infection.

This document tells you the reasons erythromycin ophthalmic ointment is routinely given to all newborns born in the hospital. Choosing to administer this medication to your baby shortly after birth may completely prevent the problems listed above.

However, not all parents are comfortable having antibiotic ointment placed in their newborn's eyes, especially if the mother has tested negative for Gonorrhea and Chlamydia infection.

WAIVER

I have read and understand the above material, I know the risks and benefits of giving my newborn baby erythromycin ophthalmic ointment, I have had the opportunity to have all my questions answered with regard to newborn eye prophylaxis and I have chosen to decline administration of this medication to my baby.

Signature of parent

Date