



BOSU

**British Ophthalmological
Surveillance Unit**

A study of adult gonococcal eye infection in the UK

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Background

Gonococcal conjunctivitis (GC) or keratoconjunctivitis (GKC) are sight threatening eye infections. Previously 'rare' conditions predominantly described in neonates, recent multi-centre case series have indicated an increased incidence of adult gonococcal eye infection in Western Europe. Gonorrhoea infections in general are increasing in England, which increases the risk of eye infection. GC/GKC requires early diagnosis and empirical treatment to avoid long-term visual complications. This increase coincides with a global public health concern that *N. gonorrhoeae* is evolving high levels of antimicrobial resistance including to ceftriaxone, the last available option for empirical therapy.

This study will define the incidence of adult gonococcal eye infection in the UK, which is currently unknown. The disseminated results will inform ophthalmologists worldwide, leading to appropriate prioritisation of GC/GKC as a public health concern

Statement Of Research Questions

- (i) incidence of gonococcal eye infection in the United Kingdom
- (ii) demographics of patients affected (e.g. age, sex, location)
- (iii) common clinical features
- (iv) incidence of clinical complications such as perforation
- (v) incidence of ceftriaxone resistant disease
- (vi) current management strategies and outcomes.

Case Definition

Patients with a laboratory confirmed (NAAT or Culture) gonococcal conjunctivitis or keratoconjunctivitis in patients who are aged 16 years or over.

Exclude patients who decline diagnostic swab or appropriate corneal or conjunctival sample(s) not obtained for any reason or are under 16 years of age.