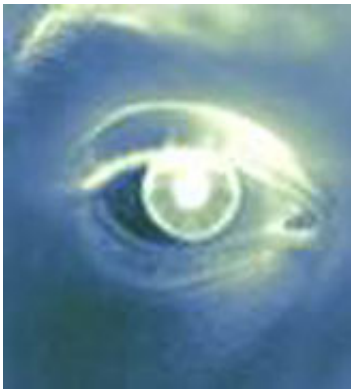


# Health officials warn of blinding cases of syphilis on West Coast

March 12 2015

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(HealthDay)—Health care providers on the West Coast need to look out for syphilis that can cause blindness, public health officials say.

More than a dozen cases of ocular syphilis—most among gay men—have been reported between Seattle and San Francisco, and two more potential cases have been reported in Los Angeles, according to the *Los Angeles Times*.

Doctors and eye-care providers should be alert for symptoms of ocular syphilis, which typically occurs as a complication of primary or secondary syphilis infections, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health said.

"These new cases highlight the importance of ongoing, regular check-ups for sexually active individuals who feel they may be at risk, particularly men who have sex with men," Michael Weinstein, president of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, said in a statement, the *Los Angeles Times* reported.

**More information:** [Health Highlights: March 11, 2015](#)

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