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Presentation of retinopathy of prematurity and associated risk factors in a referral center in Iraq**Ali Mohammed Abdulsahib¹, Najah K. Mohammad², Haider Abdulkareem Aljanabi³**¹Middle Technical University-College of Health and Medical Techniques, Iraq²Baghdad University- College of Medicine/ Baghdad, Iraq³Al-Shaheed Ghazi Al-Hariri Hospital for surgical specialties, Iraq

Background: The aim of the study was to report the prevalence of retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) and its classification in a sample of premature Iraqi newborns and to investigate the associated risk factors.

Material and methods: An observational retrospective cohort study carried out at the Ophthalmology Department, Hemayat Al-Tifil Hospital, Medical City Complex in Baghdad, Iraq. The data were collected from patients' case files from December 2019 until the end of March 2021, targeting premature newborns with gestational age < 37 weeks who had dilated fundus examination and completed the follow-up.

Results: During the study period, 269 cases were enrolled with a mean gestational age of 31.3 ± 2.2 weeks, 9.3% aged less than 28 weeks, and a birth weight of 1558.7 ± 476.8 grams. From the total sample, 19 (7.1%) had type 1 ROP (T1ROP), 43 (16%) had type 2 ROP (T2ROP), and 70 (26%) had any ROP. T1ROP was significantly associated with low gestational age (16% of cases aged < 28 weeks), respiratory distress syndrome (20%), and low birth weight (21.4% in cases with birth weight less than 1051 g). In multivariate regression analysis, poor weight gain maintained a statistically significant association with T1ROP.

Conclusion: The incidence of T1ROP in the study sample was comparable to results in other countries. Factors that were associated with increased risk for ROP after multivariate analysis were only poor weight gain.

Biography

Dr. Ali Mohammed Abdulsahib is an accomplished ophthalmologist interested in pediatric ophthalmology. With a deep passion for improving the vision and quality of life for children, Dr. Abdulsahib has dedicated his career to diagnosing and treating a wide range of eye conditions in young patients. Currently, Dr. Abdulsahib serves as a lecturer at Middle Technical University-College of Health and Medical Techniques in Baghdad, Iraq, where he imparts his knowledge and experience to aspiring optometrists, especially in the field of strabismus diagnosis and treatment. Through a combination of clinical practice and academic involvement, Dr. Abdulsahib strives to advance the field of pediatric ophthalmology and contribute to the development of skilled optometrists in Iraq.