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RETINAL HEMORRHAGES IN A FULL TERM NEWBORN

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METHODS: Non-interventional case report.

CASE PRESENTATION: An 11 day-old boy, born by spontaneous vaginal delivery in the 38 th week of gestation with a weight of 3070g had diffuse retinal hemorrhages in the four quadrants of both eyes, by indirect ophthalmoscopy. Full-field electroretinography (ERG) showed non-detectable responses both for rods and cones. By the age of two months the ERG was normal and a complete absorption of the hemorrhages was documented. Another full term newborn, with normal fundoscopy, was evaluated as a control for the ERG study.

CONCLUSION: Retinal hemorrhages are common findings in the newborn, with an incidence ranging from 2.6 to 59%. Trauma during delivery is the main etiology of these hemorrhages, but other conditions such as mother's parity, Apgar score, K vitamin deficiency, and elevated intracranial pressure have been suggested as predisposing factors. There is no evidence in the literature whether or not these retinal hemorrhages may lead to amblyopia and strabismus, although these have been reported in isolated cases. Long term follow-up will help in better understanding this condition.