

R1  R2  R3  PG0  PG1  Estagiário  Tecnólogo   
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Service (sector) Retina and Vitreous N° CEP

### **Stage 5 Retinopathy of Prematurity Epidemiological Study.**

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**Purpose:** To study the incidence and epidemiology of patients with stage 5 Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) in a tertiary ophthalmologic center.

**Methods:** Retrospective study. Charts from the Department of Ophthalmology, from 01-97 to 09-02, were reviewed and patients with stage 5 ROP were identified. Forty-four patients were selected from the charts of 887 premature infants. Data regarding sex, gestational age (GA), birth weight (BW), referring center, perinatal clinical complications, age and ROP stage at the first exam, and outcome were analyzed. **Results:** At the first exam, 41 (93.2%) presented with stage 5 ROP, 2 (4.5%) with stage 3 and 1 (2.3%) with stage 4. The last 3 cases progressed to stage 5 after diode indirect photocoagulation. 18 patients (40.9%) were male and 26 (59.1%) female. The mean GA was 26.73 weeks ( $\pm 3.3$ ) and the mean BW was 1166.5g ( $\pm 347.4$ ). The mean age at the first exam was 9.77 months ( $\pm 6.76$  months; median= 8 months). Considering the referring center, 31 (70.5%) patients were initially assessed in pediatric centers of São Paulo state, 2 (4.5%) in Rio de Janeiro, 2 (4.5%) in Pará, 2 (4.5%) in Minas Gerais, and 1 (2.3%) in Rondônia. None of the patients were born and/or assisted at the Federal University of São Paulo. Perinatal sepsis was reported in 66.6% of the patients. Metabolic (20.0%) and respiratory (13.3%) alterations were also cited. Only 14 (31.8%) patients were eligible for surgery (vitrectomy), and most of them (78.6%) presented with a re-attached retina at the final visit. **Conclusion:** A high frequency of stage 5 ROP was detected in the studied population. No patient with this late phase of ROP was detected among those screened by Federal University of São Paulo personnel. The strict protocol (exams and early treatment) followed by the institution is probably the relevant factor preventing the progression of this disease.