

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

RETINOPATHY OF PREMATURITY: A WORLD WIDE WEB PAGE DEVELOPED FOR PARENTS AND FAMILY

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PURPOSE: The World Wide Web has led to the rapid growth of medical information and continuing patient educational offerings. Ease of access and availability at any time are advantages of the Worl Wide Web. The purpose of this study was to develop a World Wide Web page with informations about retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) for parents and relatives of premature infants. **METHODS:** We created a Web site containing a description of the ocular anatomy, ROP diagnosis, stages and its treatment. Information about visual rehabilitation is also provided. **RESULTS:** A World Wide Web page protocol with informations about ROP, red reflex test, visual rehabilitation directed to parents was developed. We included a quality-improvement toolbox including clinical photos and printable patient education materials. **CONCLUSION:** ROP is a common ocular disorder of premature infants and may require multiple screening examinations by an ophthalmologist to allow for timely intervention. Since there is a strong correlation between time of diagnosis and prognosis, and family support aid and treatment adherence, the information provided by this Web site may be of value to high risk infants.