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Risk Factors for Retinopathy of Prematurity

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Purpose: To evaluate the risk factors related to the development of retinopathy of prematurity (ROP). **Methods:** From a review of 1952 charts of newborn infants, 728 charts were selected for this study. The patients were matriculated at our service between 2000 and 2005. The selection was based on the presence of ophthalmic evaluation of premature infants (less than 37 complete weeks) within two months after delivery. Data on birth weight, gestational age at the delivery, ROP grading, and neonatal disorders were analyzed. **Results:** The mean (standard deviation) birth weight, and gestational age were 1608 (346) g and 31.4 (2.7) weeks, respectively. A total of 170 children developed ROP, and the grade 1 was the most common stage (96 infants [56%]). The ROP development was associated with the birth weight (odds ratio: 1.27 for each 100-g reduction in weight; 95% confidence interval: 1.20-1.35; $P < 0.001$) and gestational age ($P < 0.001$). Conversely, neonatal infection (odds ratio: 1.02; $P = 0.93$) and acute respiratory distress syndrome (odds ratio: 1.22; $P = 0.53$) were not statistically significantly associated with ROP. **Conclusion:** The incidence of retinopathy of prematurity is increasing because of improved survival of low birth weight. Despite of this, we found a few number of publication about this issue at our country. In this study, the main risk factors associated with ROP were gestational age and birth weight, according to the literature.