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### Eye pathologies simulating a retinoblastoma in an ocular oncology center

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**BACKGROUND:** Retinoblastoma is the most common eye malignancy in childhood and its incidence is one to every 20.000 children given birth. Early diagnosis and therapeutic are important to preserve eye and life, but, sometimes is very difficult to differ retinoblastoma from other diseases.

**METHODS:** Retrospective research was performed reviewing the patients' record for clinical data of the Eye Oncology Center in UNIFESP – Brazil, from February 2001 to September 2007. **RESULTS:** Two hundred and eight children were referred to the Eye Oncology Center in UNIFESP - Brazil with presumed retinoblastoma, but, 25 (12%) had other final diagnosis. Seven (28%) had Coats's disease, 5 (20%) had presumed toxocariasis, 5 (20%) had astrocitoma, 4 (16%) had persistence of the hyperplasic primary vitreous (PHPV), 3 (12%) had choroidal hemangioma and 1 (4%) had coloboma. **CONCLUSION:** Coats' disease, presumed toxocariasis, astrocitoma, PHPV, choroidal hemangioma and coloboma were the most common diseases simulating retinoblastoma. The present study shows the importance of the referral of children with suspected retinoblastoma to an Eye Oncology Center to confirm the diagnosis and to establish the correct treatment.