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INCIDENCE AND SEVERITY OF RETINOPATHY OF PREMATURITY IN BIRATNAGAR EYE TELE ROP : A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY

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With the increase in NICU facilities, there is an increase in survival of smaller preterm babies. This is likely to increase the complications associated with preterm delivery like ROP and others. Appropriate corrective measures need to be taken to decrease the incidence as well as early identification and treatment of ROP. Incidence of ROP related blindness is reported to be in an increasing trend in developing countries. Hence there is a need to identify the burden of the disease in this part of Nepal.

A Retrospective study was conducted in a tertiary eye care center in Nepal. Records of babies screened for ROP between January 2022 and December 2022 by a team of tertiary eye care center at various NICU in Biratnagar were studied. Patients' demographic characteristics, incidence and severity of ROP, and treatment offered and its outcome were recorded.

Out of 200 babies screened, 69% were female. 32% of babies belonged to the gestational age of 28 to 32 weeks. ROP was present in 63 babies (31.5%). Incidence of ROP was high in babies weighing less than 1250 grams (68%) and in babies born before 28 weeks of gestation (87%). 43% of babies with ROP were treatment requiring cases.

Incidence of ROP was high in this study in Biratnagar, Nepal. A study to analyse the risk factors in this population and NICU will help identify and make necessary action plan to reduce the incidence.