

The awareness and knowledge of retinopathy of prematurity among pediatricians in Saudi Arabia

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Introduction:

Retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) affects premature low birth-weight infants with potentially blinding complications. This work aimed to determine the awareness and level of knowledge of ROP among pediatricians who worked at neonatal intensive care units in all regions of Saudi Arabia.

Methods:

A self-administered questionnaire was designed to study the awareness and knowledge of pediatricians about ROP. Participants who are unaware of ROP were excluded from further analysis. Data were presented as numbers and percentages.

Conclusion:

The awareness and knowledge of ROP among pediatricians of Saudi Arabia are good, but indications of referral to an ophthalmologist, the presence of a hospital protocol of ROP, and the presence of a trained ophthalmologist should be mandatory.

References:

1. Brad Bowling. Kanski's Clinical Ophthalmology, 8th ed. Philadelphia: Elsevier; 2016.
2. Al-Qahtani B, Al-Otaibi M, Alabduljabbar K, Selayem NB, Alshehri W, Omair A, Alsaif S. Retinopathy of Prematurity Incidence and Risk Factors in a Tertiary Hospital in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Middle East Afr J Ophthalmol. 2020;26:235-239.

Result:

There were 145 participants (83 male (57.2%) and 62 female (42.8%)). 138 (95.2%) participants have knowledge about ROP and seven (4.8%) have no knowledge about ROP. The participants who have no knowledge (5 specialists and 2 residents) were excluded from further analysis. 37.0% of participants were from the Central region, 20.3% from the Southern region, 19.6% from the Western region, 15.2% from the Eastern region, and 8.0% from the Northern region.

Table 1: Demography data of 145 participants

Variable	No. (%)
Gender	
• Male	84 (57.9)
• Female	71 (42.1)
Age group	
• <25-29	51 (35.2)
• 30-34	34 (23.4)
• 35-39	24 (16.6)
• >40	36 (24.8)
Years of experience in NICU?	
• <1 year	22 (15.2)
• 1-4 years	74 (51.0)
• 5-9 years	20 (13.8)
• >=10 years	29 (20.0)
Knowledge about ROP	
• Yes	138 (95.2)
• No	7 (4.8)

Table 2: Awareness and knowledge of retinopathy of prematurity among 138 pediatricians in Saudi Arabia; n (%)

Variable	No. (%)
Source of knowledge about ROP	
• Undergraduate	30 (21.7)
• Post-graduate	89 (64.5)
• Self-study	18 (13.0)
• Other	1 (0.7)
Caring for a baby with ROP	
• Yes	112 (81.2)
• No	27 (19.6)
Knowledge about the treatment of ROP	
• Yes	127 (92.0)
• No	11 (8.0)
Facilities for the treatment of ROP in participant hospitals	
• Yes	116 (84.0)
• No	22 (16.0)
Hospital protocol for eye examination for ROP	
• Yes	125 (90.6)
• No	13 (9.4)

