

Update on retinopathy of prematurity

This issue of the *Saudi Journal of Ophthalmology* is specially dedicated to Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP). A global longstanding serious cause of childhood blindness. Authors with expertise in the area of pediatric retina have genuinely undertaken their task to the best of their capacity and published notable reviews for our readers.

For nearly 80 years, ophthalmologists have been trying to understand and advance ROP treatment. In this issue, Dr. Yi Ning Strube and Dr. Kenneth Wright have provided our readers with a comprehensive overview of the pathophysiology of ROP. Elegantly written, they point out that supplemental oxygen is still the main culprit for ROP progression regardless of other risk factors.^[1]

Dr. Shuan and colleagues from Australia and New Zealand have nicely put together two reviews on ROP screening, teleophthalmology, and use of artificial intelligence as an aid. Despite the current limitations in ROP screening, they advise to consider implementing these novel modalities.^[2,3]

Dr. Yonekawa and colleagues from Wills Eye Hospital detailed in an interesting article on the advances in ROP imaging. They described the advances in widefield fluorescein angiography, Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT), and OCT angiography and how it is applied in screening diagnosis and treatment of ROP.^[4]

Anesthesia in ROP is a topic uncommonly touched upon in spite of its importance. Dr. Alselaimey and Al Tawil comprehensively review anesthetic and analgesic methods for ROP patients to aid the physician in choosing the most common and effective anesthetic practices when screening or treating ROP patients.^[5]

The development of anti-Vascular Endothelial Growth factors (anti-VEGF) more than a decade ago has provided us with another tool in our armamentarium against ROP. Dr. Alzuabi provides our readers with a brief straight-to-the-point update on the current literature about the use of Anti-VEGF in ROP.^[6]

Dr. Ozdek and colleagues from Turkey have enriched this issue with a review on late ROP complications and adult ROP. The authors stress in this article on the fact that ROP is a life-long disease that requires continuous monitoring.^[7]

The first report of the long awaited Saudi Arabian Retinopathy of Prematurity National Telemedicine Program (SAROP) is included in this issue as well. This report details the aims, process and means by which this program commenced, and challenges and demands it faced during the initiation of the project. We do hope that it remains as active and that it would cover the whole country. We believe that SAROP can be set as an example for neighboring countries.^[8]

It was a great honor and a pleasurable experience to review these articles and to write the editorial on this theme-based issue of SJO. Experts in the area of ROP, from around the world, have provided SJO readers with an updated review for which the editorial team is very thankful. We hope that these efforts will help in uplifting the knowledge for those involved in the forefront of ROP care.

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