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Project Abstract**

Title of Project: Establishing ROP screening in University Clinical Center of Kosovo

Introduction: ROP is a blinding eye condition that affects premature infants about 1250 g or less and born before 31 weeks of gestation.

Purpose: To prevent, diagnose and treat the newborns at risk for ROP.

Methods: First we organized a symposium with international lecturers and invited gynecologists, neonatologists and ophthalmologists. In details gynecologists were informed about the consequences of early delivery, neonatologists about the importance of postnatal care in different conditions mainly the effect of oxygen level in the retina of newborns and ophthalmologists for early detection and treatment of the disease. In this meeting we also invited MOH representatives and informed about the relevance of ROP in our society and equipment we need for screening of ROP. Shortly after MOH supplied our Clinic with binocular indirect ophthalmoscopy and other basic equipment needed so we can start with the screening in Neonatology and Ophthalmology Department.

Results:

We managed to establish ROP screening in our country. During 6 months there are 30 newborns diagnosed with ROP and treated on time.

Conclusions:

Prevention and screening of ROP will lower the blindness among newborns. Continuous medical education of the ophthalmologist in this field and more experience is necessary to increase the diagnosis skills and quality of screening. More sophisticated equipment (Retcam®) is also needed in future to visualize retina for prompt diagnose and follow up.