

Neonatology

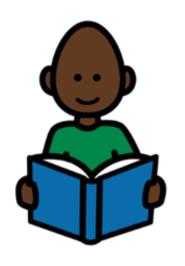
# Retinopathy of prematurity (ROP)

Perth Children's Hospital and Neonatology

King Edward Memorial Hospital and Perth Children's Hospital



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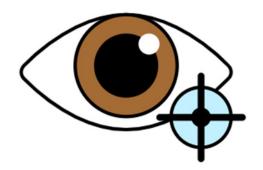
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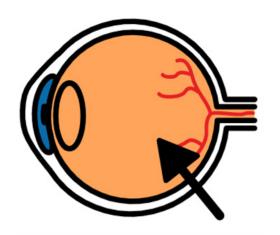


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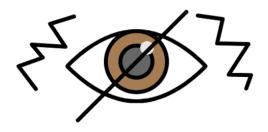
### What is ROP?



Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) is a condition that can happen in some babies born too early.



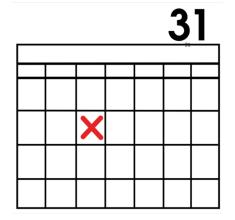
This happens when the **eye** doesn't **grow** the right way, and the **back of it** called the **Retina**, scars.



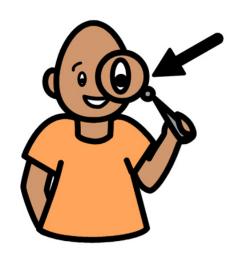
**Most** cases will **heal** by itself, but if left **untreated** can cause **blindness**.



The **earlier** your **baby**, the **higher** the **risk**. **ROP** can be bad if not found **early**.

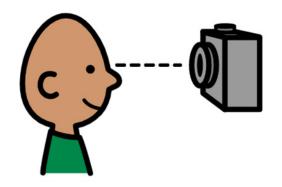


Babies who are born **before 31 weeks**, or **underweight**,
will have **regular** tests.



We won't be able to tell by just looking. That's why we need eye tests.

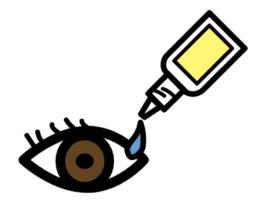
#### **Testing for ROP**



These tests use a **special** camera to take pictures of the retina.



Our **eye doctor** will **decide** if **more** tests are **needed** based on these **pictures**.

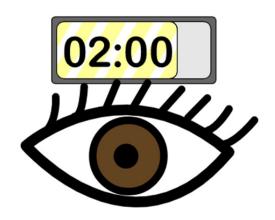


Before we test, we will put eye drops into your baby's eyes.

This will help **relax** the eyes and help us **see them**, this will **not hurt**.



Our **special camera**, will hold open baby's **eyes**. This may look **strange**, but baby **won't feel** any **pain**.

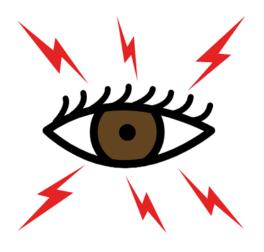


We **need** to do this to take **good photos** of the **eye**.

We will only hold each eye open for **2 minutes**.



The whole test will take 20 minutes. Let your nurse know if you would like to be with your baby for the testing.



After the test, your baby's eyes might be sore to light for a short time.

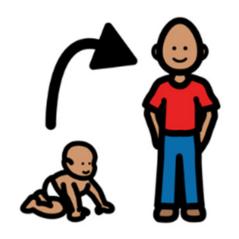


The **results** from our **doctor** will be **available** the **next day**.



If you have any questions, just ask our staff to contact the Eye Team. We are here Monday to Friday.

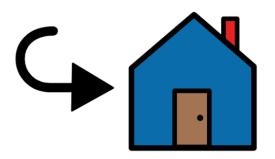
#### **Going home with ROP**



Don't worry if baby has ROP. Most cases heal on their own. We will watch their eyes over time.



We may suggest surgery for serious cases.



**Eye tests** will **continue** after you go **home**.

A clinic near home will be found, our staff will help you find this.

#### **Key contacts**

King Edward Memorial Hospital Reception - NICU



6458 2099

Perth Children's Hospital Reception - NICU



6456 3445

King Edward Memorial Hospital Aboriginal Liaison Service



6458 2777

Perth Children's Hospital Aboriginal Liaison Service



6456 2222

King Edward Memorial Hospital Child Care Centre



6458 1370

Perth Children's Hospital Child Care Centre



6456 0501

King Edward Memorial Hospital Aishwarya's Care Call



0414 930 196

Perth Children's Hospital Aishwarya's Care Call



6456 0337

South Coastal Health Services - Babbingur Mia



9550 0900

Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service



9421 3888





Government of Western Australia Child and Adolescent Health Service





For more information scan the QR code or visit cahs.health.wa.gov.au/Neonatology-Resources

If you need help with language, talk to our staff or call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 131 450. We can also give this document in other formats for people with disability.

Note: This information is for general education and information. For medical advice, contact a qualified healthcare professional. © State of Western Australia, Child and Adolescent Health Service. Produced by: Neonatology. Ref.no 1915. 2025.