

What Do I Need to Know About My Child's Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) and Lifelong Vision Health

– Information for Parents

Part 3 of 3 in a series

(<https://preventblindness.org/retinopathy-of-prematurity-rop>)

Read Next: Resources for families of children with ROP

Will ROP affect my baby's vision later in life?

- All children diagnosed with ROP, whether or not they needed treatment, may develop other vision problems, and even vision loss, as they get older, including:
 - **Myopia** (my-OH-pee-uh): Commonly called near-sightedness, means being able to see up close, but having difficulty seeing at a distance
 - **Amblyopia** (am-blee-OH-pee-uh): Often called lazy eye, caused by poor vision in one eye and can lead to vision impairment or blindness if not treated
 - **Strabismus** (struh-BIZ-muhs): Often called crossed eyes, means the eyes do not line up with each other
 - **Glaucoma** (glaa-KOH-muh): Harm to the optic nerve
 - **Color vision problems:** Difficulty seeing certain colors
 - **Retinal detachment:** The retina pulls away from the back of the eye
- Many of these vision problems can be treated with eyeglasses, eye drops, wearing an eye patch, specialized prescribed devices, or eye surgery.
- Some babies with untreated ROP or retinal detachment might experience other vision and eye health problems. **It's important to follow all treatment and eye examination recommendations.**
- Children from birth to age 3 with visual impairments may be eligible for Early Intervention services available in local communities.



"I highly recommend that parents connect with support organizations to find support and their community after they are at home, alone, caring for their baby."

– Kelli, NICU mom and Founder and CEO, Hand to Hold

Find more information on ROP, support for families of children in the NICU, and Early Intervention at:
<https://preventblindness.org/family-resources-retinopathy-of-prematurity-rop>



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Questions to ask the doctor:

You are a big part of your child's care team. Here are some questions that might be helpful to ask when talking with the ophthalmologist:

- What is my child able to see?
- Will my child require medical treatment?
- Does the treatment have any complications?
- What are the chances that my child could go blind from ROP?
- How likely is it that my child's ROP will return after treatment?
- How frequently do I need to bring my child in for follow-up eye examinations?
- How will my child's vision be affected in the future?



Scan the QR code with your smartphone's camera to learn more about ROP.

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