

Risks ID'd for referral-warranted retinopathy of prematurity

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(HealthDay)—Predictors have been identified for referral-warranted (RW)-retinopathy of prematurity (ROP), according to research published online Dec. 18 in *JAMA Ophthalmology*.

Gui-Shuang Ying, Ph.D., from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, and colleagues examined predictive factors for the development of RW-ROP in a multicenter observational cohort.

The researchers found that 15.2 percent of the 979 infants without RW-ROP at first study-related [eye examination](#) who underwent at least two examinations developed RW-ROP. In multivariate analysis, the following were identified as significant predictors: male sex (odds ratio [OR], 1.80), nonblack race (OR, 2.76 for white; OR, 4.81 for other), low [birth weight](#) (OR, 5.16), younger gestational age (OR, 9.79), number of quadrants with preplus disease (OR, 7.12 for one to two quadrants; OR,

18.4 for three to four quadrants versus no preplus disease), stage 2 ROP (OR, 4.13), presence of retinal hemorrhage (OR, 4.36), the need for respiratory support (OR, 4.99 for controlled mechanical ventilator; OR, 11.0 for high-frequency oscillatory ventilation), and slow weight gain (OR, 2.44). The development of RW-ROP was predicted significantly better with these characteristics than with birth weight and [gestational age](#) (area under the receiver operating characteristic curve, 0.88 versus 0.78; P

"Using a model like the one presented here could help identify lower-risk infants who are less likely to develop RW-ROP and require less-frequent imaging or eye examinations," the authors write.

One author disclosed financial ties to Janssen Research and Development.

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