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FUNDUS EXAMINATION

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Abstract: *Childhood blindness is a major cause of concern* and its late diagnosis and treatment can lead to visually challenged adults causing an economic and social burden to the society. Not only parents and caregivers but also pediatricians and ophthalmologists have a collective role in giving better visual potential to the children. The appropriate antenatal and postnatal history along with a good clinical examination is the key for further management. Fundus examination plays an important role in diagnosis and prognostication of many systemic pathologies. Hence, it is recommended for all children to undergo visual assessment, external oculofacial examination, distant direct ophthalmoscopy and a dilated fundus examination. The Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram of the Government of India stresses on universal eye examination of all newborns to detect preventable causes of blindness.

Keywords: Fundus examination, Systemic association, Ophthalmoscope, RetCam, Retinopathy of prematurity, Children.

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Points to Remember

- Visual assessment and fundus examination in children can be a guide to systemic diseases.
- Direct and indirect ophthalmoscopy are diagnostic equipment for retinal examination.
- RetCam is a very important telemedicine tool for retinal examination of preterm babies to detect retinopathy of prematurity.
- Role of pediatricians in eye care is very important as they are the primary treating physicians who are in contact with the children.
- Early referral to an ophthalmologist can reduce the incidence of childhood blindness.

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