

Will my baby have vision issues?

"Babies are most likely to get Retinopathy of Prematurity or ROP if they're born very early. So, babies that are born extremely premature or who weigh below 1500 grams, which is essentially under 2-1/2 pounds are more at risk. We do a number of things to try to reduce that risk in the neonatal unit. One of those is that we are very careful about the amount of oxygen we give. We monitor babies very, very closely. We also take great care to make sure that an eye specialist sees each of these babies who are at risk at the right time to treat and for that matter to protect the eyes from having this kind of problem later on."

"But we continue to monitor the eyes with our ophthalmologists, our eye doctors. And if we see something that may cause vision problems down the road we'll ask the eye doctors to come in and do a procedure to kind of get the blood vessels growing back the way they should as if it were a healthy term baby."

"If they have laser surgery or even if they don't, preemies in general are at risk for visual problems such as strabismus, amblyopia that may require them to wear glasses as they get older. So, children should be examined at least by age three by an ophthalmologist, because even though they get a good bill of health before they leave the NICU, they are at increased risk for visual problems."