



OCULAR MANIFESTATIONS OF INFANTS WITH CONGENITAL RUBELLA SYNDROME AT PHILIPPINE CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER FROM 2015-2021

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INTRODUCTION

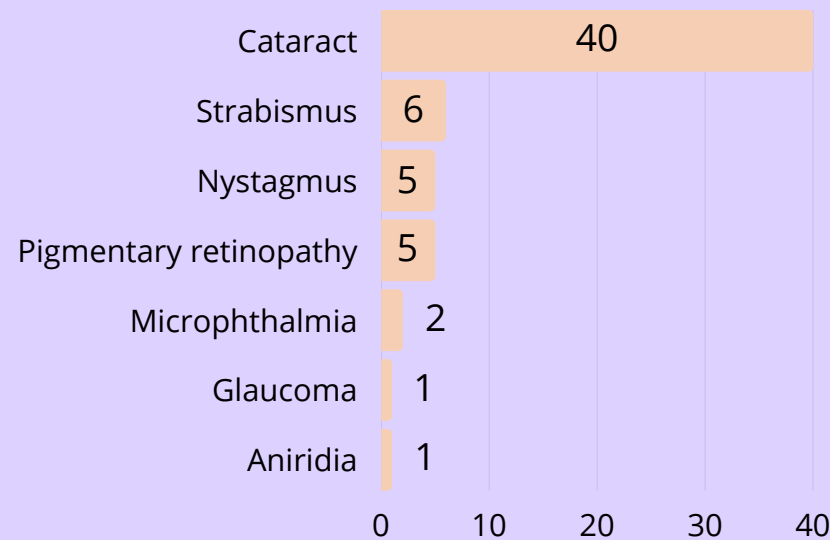
Congenital Rubella Syndrome (CRS) is a significant public health concern, with cases underreported in the Philippines, necessitating improved monitoring. CRS can result in various ocular manifestations, including cataracts and retinopathy, contributing to childhood blindness. This study focuses on ocular conditions of CRS patients at the Philippine Children's Medical Center from 2015 to 2021, with the goal of increasing awareness and improving recognition, diagnosis, and reporting.

METHODS

A retrospective chart review was conducted among children less than 1 year of age, born between January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2021, seen at PCMC, who met the clinical case definition of CRS.

RESULTS

Among the 398 reviewed charts, 312 were suspect cases of CRS, 79 were probable, and 7 were laboratory-confirmed. Ocular conditions were found in 38 suspect cases, 14 probable cases, and 2 confirmed cases. Congenital cataract was the most common ocular manifestation in infants with CRS, and associated clinical manifestations were mainly congenital heart disease followed by microcephaly and hearing impairment.



Ocular manifestations of infants with CRS (PCMC, 2015-2021)

DISCUSSION

This study identified 54 CRS cases with ocular findings, primarily cataracts, strabismus, nystagmus, and pigmentary retinopathy. This highlights the importance of early recognition and intervention, especially with ocular signs that can serve as key diagnostic indicators. The lack of a dedicated surveillance system for CRS in the Philippines underscores the need for improved monitoring and awareness to address the true national burden of the syndrome.

KEYWORDS: Congenital Rubella Syndrome, Congenital cataract, Rubella infection in pregnancy

