A minority of premature infants develop threshold retinopathy of prematurity; when it is present, however, its effect on vision and its treatment are of utmost concern. Myopia and high myopia are common in infants with high-risk prethreshold and threshold retinopathy of prematurity. In this issue of the Journal of Pediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus, Holmström and associates found that the presence of anisometropia at 6 months was a risk factor for strabismus at 10 years of age.

Once retinopathy of prematurity is under control, premature infants need to be monitored for the development of myopia and anisometropia. In the study by Holmström and colleagues, the high incidence of strabismus (16.2%) in premature infants, compared with a 3.2% incidence in full-term infants, mandates that these infants receive careful ophthalmologic follow-up for years. Parents of premature infants must be aware of the high incidence of myopia and strabismus in this population, so that they are diligent regarding regular ophthalmologic examinations during childhood.

Leonard B. Nelson, MD, MBA
Editor