

# Global Pediatric Ophthalmology Congress

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## *Bruna V Ventura*

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### **Ocular findings in infants with microcephaly after outbreak of Zika virus in Brazil**

The Zika virus (ZIKV) is a neurotropic flavivirus. It was first identified in a rhesus monkey in 1947 and first isolated in humans from Uganda a year later. However, only in 2007, a ZIKV outbreak was reported outside of Africa. This outbreak was characterized by rash, conjunctivitis and arthralgia. Another ZIKV epidemic occurred in the French Polynesia in 2013 and 2014. In April 2015, the first ZIKV autochthonous transmission was confirmed in Brazil, followed by an epidemic scenario in the country. It is estimated that more than one million Brazilians have had ZIKV infection since then, reflecting the virus capacity to cause large-scale outbreaks where the vector is present. After the Brazilian ZIKV outbreak, an unexpected 20-fold increase of microcephaly in newborns was identified with approximately 3,174 new suspect cases until January 2016. For the first time in history, this malformation has been associated with ZIKV intra-uterus infection. Since other vertically transmitted diseases can cause ocular alterations, ZIKV may also affect the eye. Literature is scarce regarding the ophthalmologic findings of infants with clinical diagnosis of ZIKV-related microcephaly. The Altino Ventura Foundation is a tertiary reference center in Ophthalmology in Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil and has a Rehabilitation Center for patients with multiple disabilities. Since Pernambuco is one of the states with the highest prevalence of ZIKV-related microcephaly, several patients received ophthalmologic care at the Foundation. Thus, we have assessed the ocular findings of infants born with microcephaly during the Brazilian ZIKV epidemic.

### **Biography**

Bruna V Ventura was graduated from the Medical School of the University of Pernambuco and completed her Residency training at the Altino Ventura Foundation, both in Recife, Brazil. She has obtained a Post-doctoral fellowship in Cataract and Refractive Surgery at the Baylor College of Medicine, in Houston, USA. She has obtained her Master's degree from the Federal University of Alagoas, in Maceio, Brazil and is currently working on her PhD degree. She is the Head of the Cataract Department of the Altino Ventura Foundation. She has published more than 25 papers in reputed journals, written several book chapters and serves as an Editorial Board Member of two ophthalmology journals.

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