

“Running lights” - a use in ophthalmology

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“Running lights” is a common decorative light display. We see them in shop windows, in prayer halls, on Christmas trees and in several other places. With some electronic circuits a series of lamps are so connected that they are turned “on” and “off” in some sequence to give an impression of “running” light.

A possible use of such an arrangement in ophthalmology is reported here. A five-month-old child was brought to our Paediatric ophthalmology clinic recently, with complaints of not fixing at light. The child had a history of neonatal septicemia and hypoglycemia. CT scan of brain showed bilateral occipital and sub occipital gliosis. Anterior and posterior segment of both the eyes were normal.

It was decided to start visual stimulation exercises for the child. As a part of it a row of “running lights” of different colours (red and green) using light emitting diodes (LED), was used. Ready-made circuits for that are available in kit form in all electronic hobby shops. One such kit was used to build a row of light about two feet long with 60 LEDs in our instruments maintenance laboratory.

The child was made to visually follow the light kept at a height of one to two feet above the bed for 20 to 30 minutes, three or four times a day. On review after 6 weeks the child was fixing well to light. The improvement in fixation also proved by the improvement shown in visual evoked response. This is now being followed by other visual stimulation exercises.



A five month old child undergoing visual stimulation exercise with the running lights
