Aim: To describe the clinical and histopathological features of ocular reactive lymphoid hyperplasia (RLH) in children, and review literature regarding this entity.

Study Design: Retrospective, interventional case series.

Method: The charts of three patients diagnosed with RLH were reviewed. Details of clinical presentation, ocular and systemic examination findings, management and subsequent course were noted.

Results: Three children, aged 9-14 years presented with ocular adnexal masses (two unilateral and one bilateral) of 7-12 months duration. Ocular examination revealed discrete nasal conjunctival masses in two patients, and bilateral eyelid fullness and conjunctival chemosis in the third patient. Systemic evaluation and laboratory tests were normal in all patients. Orbital imaging showed lacrimal gland enlargement in one patient. Histopathological evaluation with immunohistochemical markers established the diagnosis of RLH. Two patients underwent surgical excision with complete resolution. All patients have remained stable and at their last follow-up have showed no evidence of recurrence, transformation or systemic involvement.

Conclusion: Although more commonly described in adults, RLH may present as ocular adnexal masses in children. Immunohistochemical methods differentiate benign RLH from lymphomas. RLH in children tends to have a benign, self-limited course, but surgical excision may be necessary for complete resolution. A potential for recurrence and transformation necessitates periodic local and systemic reevaluation of patients.