

Workshop on Eye Care Research Priorities for India, Oct 8-9th 2011

Research Ideas for Cataract

Understanding the Disease

1. What is the current presenting acuity for patients who are operated for cataract in India?
2. Developing a grading system that accurately reflects the spectrum and grades of cataract encountered in India
3. What are the factors that are leading to early onset of cataract in India?

Magnitude

1. Assessment of cataract surgical coverage through RAAB survey
2. What is the magnitude of blindness due to PCO in India?
3. What is the desired cataract surgical rate for India?
4. What is the number of bilateral blind due to cataract

Barrier in Access

1. What factors influence decision to visit service provider/ophthalmologist when gradual diminution of vision is noticed in the ageing population?
2. What are the barriers for low uptake of cataract surgery?

Human Resources

1. A study of the type of cataract surgery training (phaco, SICS, ECCE) and the volume of surgeries performed by ophthalmology residents in India
2. Study on minimum training and qualification to perform follow-up examination of cataract patients

Quality of Care

1. How does cataract surgery impact quality of life?
2. Developing a Cataract outcome monitoring at National level.
3. What are patients' expectations before surgery? Are they met?
4. What evidence is required to support preferred practice in eye hospitals procedures (such as two table systems which is not allowed by NABH)
5. What are the main causes of poor visual outcome after cataract surgery?
6. What is the acceptable standard for good visual outcome following cataract surgery?
7. Situation Analysis: What is the surgical and post-op complications rate in India?

Service Delivery/ Intervention

1. How much sight restoring surgeries are performed - to measure the impact of the programme in reducing blindness due to cataract?
2. What are the factors contributing to low productivity in secondary level centres?
3. Operations Research to find effective ways of serving bilaterally blind, women and marginalized communities.
4. Understanding which is preferred: early surgery vs. sight restoring surgery (by the provider, patient & programme)
5. What should be the ideal postoperative follow-up period?
6. Can primary level health worker be used for identification and referral of cataract patients and eventually replace eye camps?
7. What is the current demand for spectacles after cataract surgery?
8. Situation Analysis: Comparing of number of bilaterally blind persons in areas with Vision Centres vs. places with traditional eye care services (like secondary eye hospitals)

Cost

1. What are the drivers of cost of cataract surgery?

Financing Care

1. Study of viable economic models of financing eye care services (like cataract surgery)

