

Workshop on Eye Care Research Priorities for India, 8-9th October, 2011
Research Ideas for Refractive Error Correction

Understanding the Disease

1. Defining refractive Errors:
 - What should be the VA cut-off point to define refractive error for both near and distance vision?
 - What should be the cut off visual acuity for refraction and provision of spectacles in Indian context?

Magnitude

1. Rapid Assessment of Refractive Error in the region
2. Magnitude of Refractive Errors in India
 - What are the factors causing higher prevalence of refractive error in urban areas than in rural areas
 - What are prevalence rates of Refractive Errors in different ethnic groups in India?

Acceptance

1. What is the current demand for presbyopia glasses
2. What is the impact of the vanity component in willingness to pay for spectacles?
3. What is the effect of successful Refractive Error correction in influencing eye health seeking behavior in future
4. What are the trends in high cost interventions (LASIK, Progressive lenses, Contact lens) for Refractive Errors?
5. What are the differences in uptake of services among different groups (age groups, occupation groups)

Barriers in Access

1. How effective are community based programs dispensing glasses?
2. What are the major barriers for the access to RE services in urban & rural areas?
3. How effective are school screening programmes when compared to awareness programs promoting eye examinations?

Compliance to Follow-up

1. What are the factors affecting compliance to refractive error correction?
2. What are the effective methods to increase compliance for use of spectacles amongst children?
3. How frequently do people get their eyes checked after being prescribed glasses?
4. What are the factor affective compliance to usage of presbyopia glasses?

Human Resources

1. Development of a standardized Teacher Training Curriculum For RE Screening
2. Development of a standardized minimum training requirements for refraction and spectacle prescription for children
3. What is the effectiveness of the vision technicians in delivering RE services?
4. Identifying manpower to train in refraction and basic eye care delivery (like VT / MLOP)
5. How does the duration of training impact the quality of screening for refractive errors?
6. What is the acceptance of prescriptions from optometrists?
7. How effective are health workers in refractive error case finding and distribution of spectacles?

Quality

1. What is the impact of refractive errors on productivity, academic performance and quality of life
2. How effective are school eye screening programmes?
3. How effective are self prescribed glasses?
4. Operations Research to find an effective method of monitoring whether VA outcomes have been satisfactorily achieved by RE services?

Service Delivery / Intervention

1. How effective are school teachers in screening the school children for refractive errors?
2. Comparative study of different spectacle distribution mechanisms (cost effectiveness and uptake)
3. Establishing target groups to aid in effective case finding
4. Developing standardized screening tools o ensure high standards of refractive error correction