Knowledge, Attitude and Practice of the Saudi Population Toward Amblyopia: A Countrywide Survey

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Background

In views of the various misconceptions about amblyopia, this study was undertaken to investigate the knowledge, attitude and practice of Saudi population towards amblyopia on a national level.

Methods

This study was conducted as a large-scale cross-sectional survey in all regions of Saudi Arabia. Total number of participants were 2062 Saudi citizens with a mean age of (31.73 ± 11.92).1556 were females and 508 were males.

Result

Most of the participants were from the western region (37.6%) of the country followed by the central (22.2%), eastern (18.6%), northern (16.9%) and the southern region (4.7%). (69.8%) were having education at college level, whereas (38.4%) were employed. Interestingly, (12.1%) was diagnosed as amblyopia. (74.2%) of participants admitted that they have no knowledge about amblyopia. For those who had some information about amblyopia, the media was the most common source (35.97%). Regarding the cause of amblyopia, the participants reported genetics as the most common cause (37.9%). (40.3%) have no knowledge wither amblyopia can be cured or not. Most of the participants believed that the treatment modality for amblyopia was eye exercise (20.9%), whereas eye patches was chosen only by (16.7%) of participants. (22.9%) believed that amblyopia can be passed through the offspring. (49.2%) of participants have no knowledge at what age amblyopia can be treated, and only (22.8%) of them believed that amblyopia can be treated after the age of 18.

Conclusions

This is the first study to show the knowledge, attitude and practice of Saudi population towards amblyopia on a national level. Many Saudi citizens have very low knowledge of amblyopia. Most of them were either misinformed or lack the required information to prevent the development of amblyopia. One of the most important measures to educate the public was through media and the early screening for children before school age.

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