Prevalence of Refractive Error Among Primary School Children

in Semarang Central Java

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Abstract

Introduction

Refractive error is the visual impairment that become the one of leading cause for blindness over the world. 153 millions people over 5 years are esitimated to be visually impaired from uncorrected refractive error, of whom eight million are blind. Poor vision and an inability to read material on the chalkboard due to refractive error can profoundly affect a child's participation and learning in the classroom. It also has serious social implications for the child in school.

Objective

To evaluate the prevalence of refractive error among primary school children in Semarang, Central Java

Method

A Cross Sectional Descriptive Study

Result

Out of 1.115 primary school children in Semarang, refractive error was present in 277 (24,8%) and the commonest refractive error was astigmatism which accounted for 82,6% of all errors. This was followed by myopia and hypermetropia was the least common. Students 11-13 were most likely to have uncorrected refractive error. According to gender female students were associated to all refractive error except hypermetropia.

Conclusion

Refractive error was the significant problem that impact the development of school children. Early diagnosis and prompt treatment were the most way to avoid the further complication of uncorrected refractive error. Eye screening of school children is recommended.

Keywords

Refractive error, school children, visual impairment