

ABSTRACT

Title : Clinical study of patients presenting to Low vision clinic in a Tertiary Eye Care Hospital

Aims and Objectives :

To study the clinical profile of patients presenting to low vision clinic in a tertiary eye care hospital and to assess the change in the quality of life of patients using low vision devices.

Materials and Methodology :

The study is a hospital based Prospective observational study from July 2013 to June 2014. Totally 1049 patients were included in the study after considering the inclusion and exclusion criteria. On the first visit, a detailed history, ocular examination, visual acuity and quality of life assessment with a questionnaire is done and recorded. The patients who bought the advised low vision devices were followed up at 6 months and during the follow up visit, the similar details are obtained. The changes in the quality of life of patients who utilise the assistance with low vision device is analysed.

Results :

Most of the patients were males (63.9%). 23.9% of patients were of less than 10 years age group. Majority of the patients were from Tamilnadu state (49.1%) and from a rural (40.3%) background. The range of Best

corrected visual acuity of the better eye in 35.4% of patients was between 6/18 and 6/60. Most common etiology being Retinitis Pigmentosa . The overall acceptance rate of low vision aid is only 19.5% with the maximum for the magnifiers. There was statistically significant improvement in the quality of life of patients using low vision devices.

Conclusion :

- In case of pre – school children and infants , early identification and rehabilitation is needed.
- For school going children , Proper guidance , co-operation with school teacher in proper identification and management.
- Special training about early identification for selected teachers in all schools.
- To incorporate an Integrated education in schools.
- To include in Primary eye care programs about the effective measures to make and early identification and referral of patients who would benefit from the rehabilitation services.
- Educate people about services and rehabilitative measures available for the low vision people .
- To promote self and family motivation and confidence.
- To promote Community based rehabilitation.

Key words: Rehabilitation , Low vision aid , Magnifier , Functional vision.