

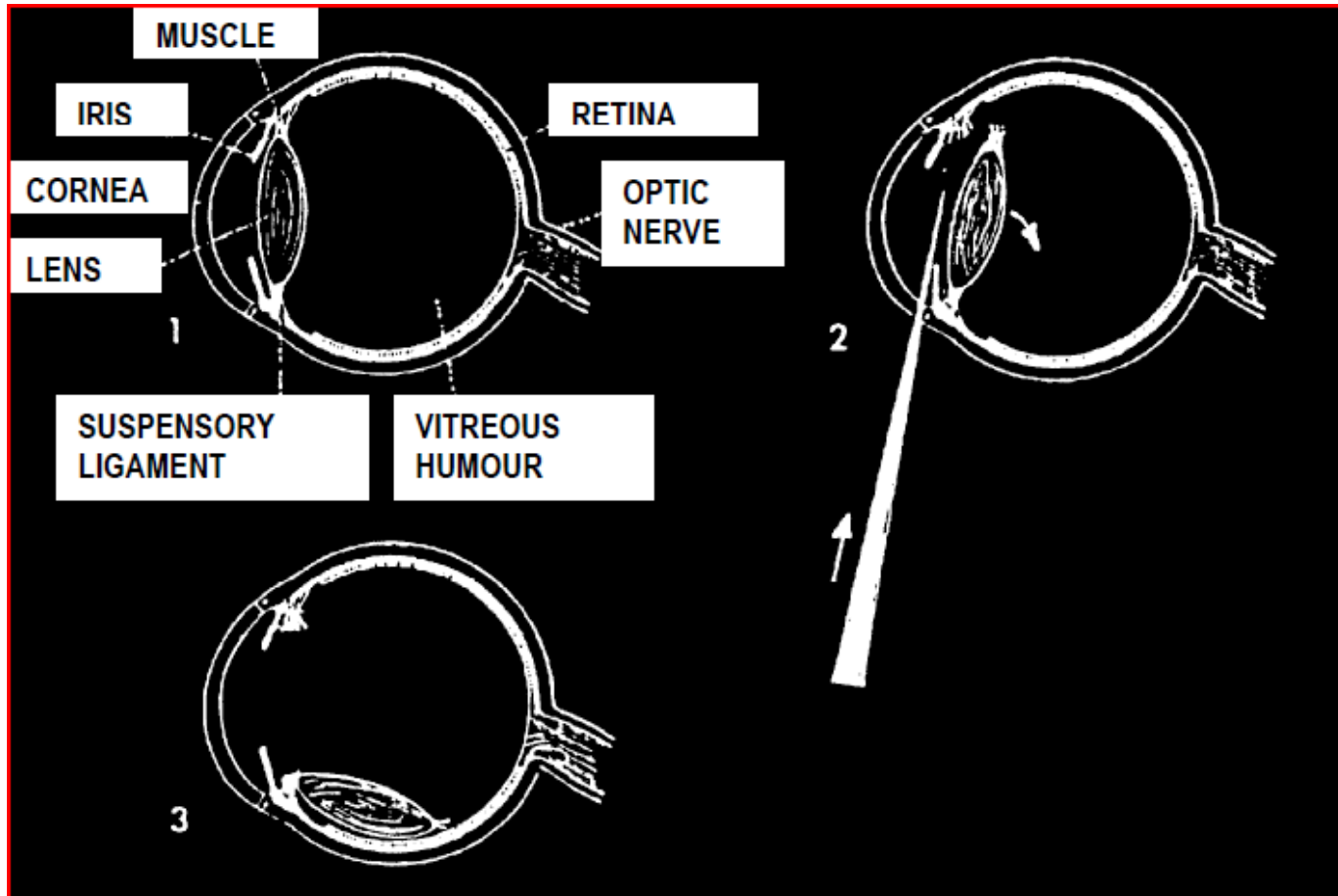
Factors Involved in the Choice between Surgery and Couching for Cataract Treatment in northern Ghana

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Introduction

Couching



Schematic of the couching procedure.

Methods

Study Site

- Rural areas surrounding Tamale, Ghana (population: 2 million)

1 ophthalmologist



Methods

Data collection and analysis



Study population



16 participants, *Dagomba*,
Age 69, M:F 3:2, Muslim,
No formal education, Poverty likelihood: 60.8

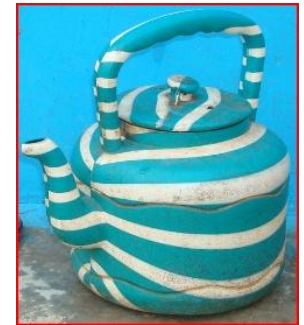
Results

Findings related to the couching procedure

- Procedure had occurred up to 20 years prior

- Cost varied

- 1/2 paid in cash
- 1/4 non-monetary
- 1/4 could not recall



- 4/5 same male coucher

- Visual Outcome

- Bilateral
- Better, Worse/complications,
- Better only immediately after



Results

Beliefs related to cause of eye disease

- Did not know
- Witchcraft
- God's will
- Occupation as farmers
- Smoke
- Old age
- *dirgu* (pain in the head)



Results

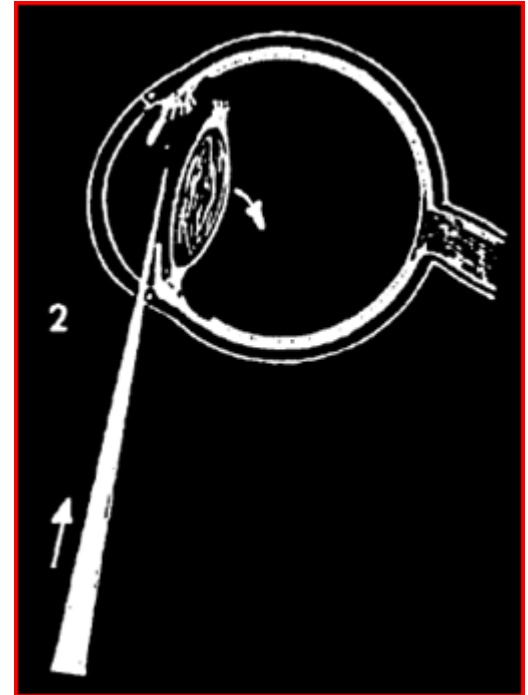
Factors involved in the choice of couching

- *Factors grouped according to internal or external origin*

1) External: influential people

2) Internal: previous treatment experience

+ Barriers to hospital treatment



Results

Factors involved in the choice of couching
External: influential people



Results

Factors involved in the choice of coughing *Internal: previous treatment experience*



Discussion

Important points:

- Availability of an ophthalmologist is a minor factor?
- 63% of participants reported better vision following couching?
- Cost is a minor factor?



Thank-you!

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