Patient-perceived Barriers to Eye Care & Patient Knowledge of Eye Care in Rural Odisha, India

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Background
Aims & Methods

- Describe patient-perceived barriers to care
- Describe patient demographics and socioeconomics
- Assess knowledge of eye health and care practices
- Investigate any relationship(s)

- Survey via convenience sampling
  - Demographic information
  - Simple Poverty Scorecard®
  - Eye care background
  - Knowledge assessment
  - Community perceptions
Results: Barriers

Are there people in your community who should come for eye care outreaches, but who haven’t yet come?

Top 3 reasons
- A lack of knowledge of the camp (46.7% of ‘yes’ responses)
- A lack of time due to the need to work (26.7%)
- A lack of money (6.67%)
Results: Knowledge

- Will eyeglasses help refractive error?
- Will eyeglasses help blindness from cataracts?
- What is the treatment for cataracts?
- Might breast milk in the eye cure an infection?
- How do you describe a cataract surgery?
Results: Relationships

- **Poverty & Knowledge**
  - Scatter plot showing the relationship between Poverty Score and Knowledge Aggregate Score.

- **Patient Status & Knowledge**
  - Box plots comparing Knowledge Aggregate Score between New Patient and Returning Patient.

- **Sex & Knowledge**
  - Box plots comparing Knowledge Aggregate Score between Male and Female.

- **Age & Knowledge**
  - Scatter plot showing the relationship between Age and Knowledge Aggregate Score.
Results: Relationships

- Poverty & Knowledge
- Patient Status & Knowledge
- Sex & Knowledge
- Age & Knowledge
Conclusion

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Knowledge of eye care is best predicted by poverty score and new/returning patient status.
Conclusion

- Two-thirds of communities face barriers to care, especially lack of knowledge of care access, lack of time or need to work, and lack of money.
- Knowledge of eye care is low and there are important misconceptions.
- Knowledge of eye care is best predicted by poverty score and new/returning patient status.
- Efforts to increase outreach awareness, to educate at outreach, and to harmonize outreach schedules to patient work schedules in rural Indian regions are encouraged.
“When the world is sick, can’t no one be well. But I dreamt we was all beautiful and strong.” – Thee Silver Mt. Zion Memorial Orchestra & Tra-La-La Band

“The idea that some lives matter less is the root of all that is wrong with the world.” – Paul Famer

“Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.” – Theodore Roosevelt

“Vision is a mental picture of what could be, fueled by the conviction that it should be.” – Andy Stanley
Thank you