

## Non-refractive type eye diseases in Sri Lankan children

A comprehensive epidemiological study performed on 5649 children aged 3 - 14 y in a health unit areas of southern, Sri Lanka revealed the existence of Non- Refractive Type Eye Diseases (NRTED) among children.

The total prevalence of NRTED was 1.6% (160/10,000). Among males and females it was 1.8% (180/10,000) & 1.3% (130/10,000) respectively. Of them there were congenital eye diseases in 0.58% (58/10,000) that consisted of congenital Ptosis (18/10,000), congenital cataract (5/10,000), degenerative changes of macula (7/10,000), Disc pallor (7/10,000), Veal colobomata (7/10,000) Microphthalmos (4/10,000) retinitis Pigmentosa (4/10,000), Congenital Nystagmus (1/10,000), Keratoconus (1/10,000), Eccentric pupil (1/10,000) and marfan's syndrome (1/10,000). Of all congenital the prevalence of infections was 0.21% (21/ 10,000) with clinical defects 66.6% had visual acuity (VA) defects.

The prevalence of infections was 0.21% (21/10,000) with clinical retinal toxoplasmosis in 11/10,000, Uveitis in 1/10,000, Blepharitis in 5/10,000, External Hordeola in 4/10,000 of all infections 76% showed some VA defect.

Nutritional conditions observed was only vitamin A deficiency with conjunctival Xeroses in 18/10,000 and Bitot Spots in 7/10,000 giving a total prevalence of vit. A deficiency in 25/ 10,000 children showed Vernal conjunctivitis in 4/10,000 without VA defects. Traumatic conditions detected were 17/10,000 (0.17%) with lid injuries (4/10,000) corneal scarring (5/10,000) penetrating injuries (7/10,000) and Traumatic macula damage (1/10,000). VA defects were showed in 82.0%.

Other vague conditions were observed in 30/10,000 with accommodative asthenopia in 27/10,000 and vague eye complaints in 3/10,000. No VA defects were reported. Out of all Non-refractive type eye diseases there were visual acuity defects in a total of 44.3%.