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Prevalence of refractive errors among cerebral palsy kids

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Purpose: The purpose of the study is to understand the refractive status among the children with cerebral palsy and the need of appropriate spectacle correction to improve their quality of vision.

Method: Around 102 children from various special schools across Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India were recruited for the study with the appropriate consent from the concerned person. Children recruited in the study were in the age group of 9 months to 12 years. All the children were assessed for the vision using LEAs symbols and LEAs paddles based on their level of cognition. All the children were dilated with cyclopentolate 0.5% HCl and tropicamide. Routine static retinoscopy was performed both in dilated and undilated state. After eliciting their refractive errors, children were corrected with spectacles considering their need.

Result: Totally 102 children were assessed, out of which 12% were normal (around 12 children), 69% were hyperopic (around 71 kids) and remaining 19% were myopic (around 19 children).

Conclusion: From the results, the cerebral palsy kids need periodic visual assessment and appropriate spectacle correction. Further studies are being done on assessing the accommodative status of the cerebral palsy children. On improving the quality of vision, quality of life of the cerebral palsy children can be improved.

Biography

Ambika MV Raman is currently working as a Senior Consultant Optometrist in Chennai, India. She has been a Faculty for low vision aids, visual optics, geriatric optometry, and pediatric optometry. Dr. Ambika won prize for Best Performance in Low Vision Aids at SANKARA NARAYANAN.

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