

Pediatric Eye Care Treatment Rates and Community Compliance to a Spectacle Provision Program in an Underserved School District [Letter]

Chisom T Madu , Oluwafisayo Adeoye, Imani Nwokeji

City University of New York School of Medicine, Ophthalmology Specialty Interest Group, New York, NY, USA

Correspondence: Chisom T Madu, City University of New York School of Medicine, Ophthalmology Specialty Interest Group, 160 Convent Avenue, New York, NY, 10031, USA, Email cmadu000@citymail.cuny.edu

Dear editor

In their report on the six-year implementation of the UCSD Eyemobile for Children (EyeMobile) within an underserved San Diego school district for screening and treating pediatric refractive error, Rohn et al reveal a high level of compliance among children in completing eye examination referrals and in wearing spectacles prescribed through the program.¹ With the EyeMobile program proving to be successful in both diagnosing and treating pediatric vision impairment, it would be interesting to further investigate the potential for such a program to be used in preventative care. With the prevalence of pediatric eye conditions such as myopia continuing to increase, there is a growing need to prioritize efforts toward prevention.²

Within the EyeMobile program, general eye care information was given only to the parents of children who had already failed a vision screening. However, it may be of greater benefit to disseminate eye care information to the families of all participants, regardless of the results of their initial screening. A clinical trial looking into the effects of an online family health education program on the prevention of pediatric myopia found that children who received family health education had a significantly lower incidence of myopia than those who had not received family education.³ In addition to being able to inform parents on how to reduce the likelihood of myopia for their children, the EyeMobile and similar programs have the advantage of being able to operate directly within public school systems with higher levels of socioeconomic deprivation. This provides greater accessibility to subsets of children that may be less likely to exhibit positive vision-related health behaviors, including the children of non-myopic parents. These children have been shown to experience even greater reductions in the incidence of myopia through family education programs.³

Overall, the incorporation of family health education may improve the capability of the EyeMobile, and similar screening programs, to be used in lowering the incidence of pediatric refractive error and in reducing the potential disparity in outcomes between children of myopic parents and children of non-myopic parents.

Disclosure

All authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest in this communication and are not receiving funding from any agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

References

1. Rohn MCH, O'Sullivan F, Brown SI, Hernandez E, Borooah S, Molina I. Pediatric Eye Care Treatment Rates and Community Compliance to a Spectacle Provision Program in an Underserved School District in San Diego, CA. *Clin Ophthalmol*. 2023;17:1729–1737. doi:10.2147/OPTH.S409075
2. Grzybowski A, Kanclerz P, Tsubota K, Lanca C, Saw S-M. A review on the epidemiology of myopia in school children worldwide. *BMC Ophthalmol*. 2020;20(1):27. doi:10.1186/s12886-019-1220-0
3. Zhang J, Wang L, Guo L, et al. Effects of online family health education on myopia prevention in children by parental myopia: a randomized clinical trial. *Clin Exp Optometry*;2023:1–8. doi:10.1080/08164622.2023.2216840

Dove Medical Press encourages responsible, free and frank academic debate. The content of the Clinical Ophthalmology 'letters to the editor' section does not necessarily represent the views of Dove Medical Press, its officers, agents, employees, related entities or the Clinical Ophthalmology editors. While all reasonable steps have been taken to confirm the content of each letter, Dove Medical Press accepts no liability in respect of the content of any letter, nor is it responsible for the content and accuracy of any letter to the editor.

Clinical Ophthalmology

Dovepress

Publish your work in this journal

Clinical Ophthalmology is an international, peer-reviewed journal covering all subspecialties within ophthalmology. Key topics include: Optometry; Visual science; Pharmacology and drug therapy in eye diseases; Basic Sciences; Primary and Secondary eye care; Patient Safety and Quality of Care Improvements. This journal is indexed on PubMed Central and CAS, and is the official journal of The Society of Clinical Ophthalmology (SCO). The manuscript management system is completely online and includes a very quick and fair peer-review system, which is all easy to use. Visit <http://www.dovepress.com/testimonials.php> to read real quotes from published authors.

Submit your manuscript here: <https://www.dovepress.com/clinical-ophthalmology-journal>

<https://doi.org/10.2147/OPTH.S430542>