

Poster Title: Risk Factors for Late Presentation with Advanced Cataract in the Hong Kong Adult Population

Authors: Yan Yin Lo¹, Angie H.C. Fong¹, John Buchan², Jonathan C.H. Chan¹, Christopher K.S. Leung¹, Kendrick C. Shih¹, Nicholas S.K. Fung¹, Allie Lee¹, Ivan S.C. Chow¹, Phoebe C.L. Lam¹, Catey Bunce²

¹ *The University of Hong Kong*, ²*The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine*

Background

- ❖ Cataract is the main cause of blindness and impaired best-corrected visual acuity (BCVA) in Hong Kong.¹
- ❖ This study aims at analysing the risk factors for late presentation of patients with advanced cataract, while also investigating the motivation factors for eye screening programme attendance.

Methodology

- ❖ The study is a case-control study.
- ❖ Participants in the Southern District Eye Examination Scheme were classified into cases and controls by their BCVA at primary diagnosis.
- ❖ BCVA and demographic data were collected from the database and information of other risk factors were collected by questionnaire.

Results

- ❖ 175 participants were recruited for this study, with 86 cases.
- ❖ 56.6% are females and mean age is 69 years old.
- ❖ Univariate analysis shows that low socioeconomic status is associated with late presentation of advanced cataract, as measured by monthly household income, housing type, education level and occupation.
- ❖ Other significant factors from the univariate analysis include increasing age, lack of social support, diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, no primary family history of cataract and lowered mobility.
- ❖ Multivariate analysis shows consistent findings as seen in the table below.
- ❖ Presence of symptoms and recommendations from friends or family are the common reasons for attending screening programme.
- ❖ The general knowledge level of cataract is low, while word-of-mouth and healthcare providers are useful channels for providing cataract information to patients.

Multivariate Analysis of Study Factors Between Cases and Controls

Study Factor	Increase	Odds of Late Presentation	95% CI
Age	Per 10 year increase	1.94	1.21-3.09
Education level	Per unit increase	0.44	0.22-0.89
Monthly income	Per unit increase	0.66	0.44-0.99
Lives alone	/	2.94	1.01-8.49

Conclusion

- ❖ The findings show that low socioeconomic status, increasing age, lack of social support and medical co-morbidities are significant factors for late presentation of cataract, emphasizing the importance of active public outreach to prevent unnecessary visual loss among these underprivileged population.

Reference: ¹You, Q.S., Choy, B.K.N., Chan, J.C.H., Ng, A.L.K., Shih, K.C., Cheung, J.J.C., Wong, J.K.W., Shum, J.W.H., Ni, M.Y., Lai, J.S., Leung, G.M., Wong, T.Y. and Wong, I.Y.H. (2020). *Prevalence and Causes of Visual Impairment and Blindness among Adult Chinese in Hong Kong – The Hong Kong Eye Study*. *Ophthalmic Epidemiology*, 27(5), pp.354–363.