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The importance of early detection of amblyopia in preschool children

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Introduction: Functional amblyopia is reduction of monocular visual acuity without existence of primary visible organic damage of retina, optic pathways and visual centers. Amblyopia is one of the biggest ophthalmological and also social problems, and it appears in about 2-4% of the population. The key to treatment success of amblyopia is early detection.

Aim: The aim of the study is to detect amblyopia in preschool children, when the effective treatment can be initiated.

Materials & Methods: We used the method of random choice and performed the ophthalmological investigations on 411 children on 3 to 6 years old. Functional amblyopia was detected in 17 (4.17%) patients. In all children with detected amblyopia after performed skiascopy, appropriate optical correction was given. Patching or atropine penalization of dominant eye was applied, in correlation with the age and visual acuity of the child.

Results: After applied treatment (patching or atropine penalization) of dominant eye in the period of 15 months, in 7 (41.18%) children a visual acuity 0.8-1.0 was achieved, in 8 (47.06%) children - visual acuity 0.4-0.7 and in 2 (11.76%) children visual acuity of 0.1-0.3 was achieved.

Conclusion: Hence it can be concluded that, the condition for success in the treatment of functional amblyopia is early detection, proper and complete orthoptic treatment and good collaboration with the child and his parents.

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