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Quality of life in pseudophakic children operated both eyes for congenital and developmental cataract

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Background: Pediatric cataracts contribute a very significant proportion of avoidable blindness in children. Despite the recent advances made in pediatric cataract management, many patients may not be satisfied with their quality of life (QOL). We conducted this study to evaluate the quality of life in pseudophakic children operated both eyes for congenital or development cataract. We also assessed the parameters which could determine the quality of life of patients operated for congenital and developmental cataract.

Objective: The objectives of this study was to evaluate the quality of life in Pseudophakic children operated both eyes for congenital or development cataract and to assess the quality of life of the patient with the help of questionnaire.

Methods: In this prospective cross-sectional hospital based study, we report quality of life in children operated both eyes for congenital and developmental cataract attending the outpatient department at Lumbini Eye Institute from 2009 April to 2010 October.

Results: Quality of life in children with bilateral congenital and development cataract who were operated earlier had better results than the children who were presented late at cataract surgery. Majority of our patient had good to fair quality of life after correcting with glasses. Some parents rated day to day activities of their children better than what the children felt. This shows that parents sometime over estimate their children's performance.

Conclusion: Improvement in visual functioning and the quality of life have been demonstrated following cataract surgery. These gains were sustained if both eyes were operated in early life. Assessment of the outcomes of cataract surgery by clinical indicators alone may underestimate the overall benefits of surgery, particularly in patients with poor visual outcome. Questionnaire helps in determining the quality of life.

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