

### Perspective & challenges in conducting ophthalmology studies in India

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There is a growing demand for conducting ophthalmology clinical programs in India. There are about 15 million blind patients of which 11 million cases can be avoided and this includes cataract (62.6%), refractive Error (19.70%), corneal Blindness (0.90%), glaucoma (5.80%), surgical complication (1.20%), posterior capsular opacification (0.90%), posterior segment disorder (4.70%) and others (4.19%). Government of India has already launched a national program to control blindness and expects to reach its blindness elimination target of 0.3% by 2015, five years before the WHO deadline of 2020. In lieu of these changes, number of studies are conducted in India in order to identify disease precursors, create awareness, and to improve pharmacological interventions. Cataract has been documented to be the most significant cause of bilateral blindness in India where vision <20/200 in the better eye on presentation is defined as blindness. In India, cataract has been reported to be responsible for 50-80% of the bilaterally blind in the country due to increased number of diabetic population. From around 1.2 million cataract surgeries per year in the 1980s, the cataract surgical output increased to 3.9 million per year by 2003. Presenter is going to enumerate a case study on the challenges and issues governing cataract study in India. This presentation provides greater insights to the audience helping them understand the difference in conducting clinical study in cataract with reference to medical care, surgical procedures and usage of drugs in clinical settings.

### Biography

Dr. Bopanna is a trained Pharmacologist and has over fifteen years of experience in clinical, safety and regulatory. He has served in senior positions in the field of pharmaceutical; IT enabled services and contract research companies like AstraZeneca, Manipal Acunova and Tata Consulting Services. He is a thought leader and has been currently elected as the President of Indian Society of Clinical Research. Dr. Bopanna serves as an advisory council member of DIA and as a member of apex committee for the Vision 2025 group set up by Department of Biotechnology, Government of India. He was the organizing chair for the 3rd annual conference of clinical research and also program chair of DIA annual conference at Bangalore. Dr. Bopanna has contributed to over 35 publications, speaker in more than 100 forums and has authored 4 chapters in academic text books as well. He currently is the editor in 2 journals and a referee in 4 journals. He has mentored over 25 students for their Postgraduate program and is a PhD examiner in 4 universities. Dr. Bopanna obtained his Doctorate Degree (PhD) in Psychopharmacology from National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bangalore, India and Doctor of Science (DSc) in Biochemical Pharmacology from Washington International University, Washington DC.