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Prevalence of refractive errors and associated risk factors among primary school students in Jazan male population

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Refractive error is a very common eye disorder. It is a very serious problem that there are 153 million people with uncorrected refractive errors in the world. There are three types of refractive errors myopia, hyperopia and astigmatism. The visual system is so important, though the presence of all the anatomical structures at birth it continues to mature and develop until school age. Environmental factors that make the student spend more time in close activities such as reading, playing video games, watching TV and excessive use of smart phones are important potential risk factors for developing refractive errors. The global prevalence of refractive errors in children from 5-15 years is 0.96% which represent 12.8 million children. Few studies in Saudi Arabia are conducted about the prevalence of the refractive error in primary school students. There are some variations in the prevalence of refractive errors in Saudi Arabia ranging from 23% in Abha city to 13.7% Alhassa to 10.7% in Jeddah. Children with uncorrected refractive errors may tend to have many problems that may face them, such as they cannot read the board clearly and they may face reading and writing problems that may result in decrease in the participation in the indoor and outdoor activities. We will conduct a cross-sectional study on young male primary school students (age range from 6-12 years) in Jazan. We have chosen six governorates randomly; one school from each governorate, 83 students from each school and the total is 498 students. We will measure their refraction using an auto refractor and Snellen E chart. The reason of this study is to measure the prevalence of refractive errors in Jazan region since there was no previous study about it. Prevalence helps you know the magnitude of a problem in the community.

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