

Optometry DisList

Instance 2015: 7
Wednesday, 6 May 2015

Today's Subjects

- Pattern of Optometry Practice and Range of Services in India
- Giridhar Eye Institute, School of Optometry(Job opening)
- The synthetic cornea eliminates the need for donors and could restore sight to millions of people worldwide
- Why Did Pirates Wear Eye Patches?

Today's Messages:

Date: Friday, 17 April 2015
From: NileshThite (nilesh_thite@yahoo.com)

Subject: Pattern of Optometry Practice and Range of Services in India

Abstract

Purpose: This study was conducted to evaluate the range of services provided by optometrists in various modes of optometric practice in India.

Methods: An online questionnaire was administered to 1674 optometrists to collect information on the range of optometric services offered. Data were analyzed based on variables including sex, educational qualification, and modes of practice. Two-sample Wilcoxon rank sum tests, χ^2 tests, and Fisher exact test were used to conduct inferential statistics.

Results: A total of 563 valid and completed survey questionnaires were received from graduates of 41 optometry institutes working across 23 states of India. Of these, 225 (40.0%) were female, 288 (51.2%) had completed postgraduate education, and 340 (60.5%) were involved in more than one mode of practice. The top three modes of practice were hospital-based practice (44.8%), academia (42.8%), and optical retail (33.0%). Of the 441, out of 563 (78.3%) respondents involved in patient care, the majority (98.4%) performed refraction and routine eye examination, 70.3% dispensed contact lenses, and 66.9% practiced optical dispensing. Lower involvement was seen in providing binocular-vision (45.1%) and low-vision services (30.2%). Higher education was associated with advanced level of practice ($p < 0.05$) except clinical investigative procedures. There was a significant association between postgraduate studies and involvement in academics and research ($p < 0.01$).

Conclusions: Most optometrists are engaged in multiple modes of practice, with optical practice, hospital-based practice, and academia being the leading modes. Optometrists need to be more involved in providing the core optometric services of binocular vision and low vision. Higher education has an impact on the level of optometric practice.

For Full article, please contact Nilesh Thite (nilesh_thite@yahoo.com)

Date: Friday, 24 April 2015

From: Murukan Velayudhan (girieye@vsnl.com)

Subject: Giridhar Eye Institute, School of Optometry (Job opening)

Giridhar Eye Institute is a tertiary care center with over 17 years reputation. We have various specialties functioning in this complex with 20 full time consultants and with 24x7 Trauma care. We are also into educating budding ophthalmologists by conducting various in-house long term and short term fellowship programs. We have been accredited by the National Board of Examinations for conducting Diplomate National Board (DNB) course for post MBBS (3 Years) and post DO (2 Years) doctors which is equivalent to the MS Degree and also for long term (2 years) fellowship program in Vitreo Retina (FNB). We also conduct various educational activities to the Post Graduate students in the form of Symposia, hands-on experience, etc.

We have 19 Optometrists working in our Institute. However, as we find skilled Optometrists are scarce, we have set up a School of Optometry titled "Susruta School of Optometry & Visual Sciences" under a trust with affiliation to KUHAS (Kerala University of Health Sciences). The necessary clearance has been obtained and we are hopeful of starting the academic session this year. In this connection we are looking for a qualified person to take up the position of **PRINCIPAL**. Minimum M.Sc. qualified, Optometrists with at least 5 years teaching experience willing to relocate to Cochin on a long term basis can be considered for principal's position. We are also on the lookout for **Part-time Lecturers** for General Anatomy, Physiology and Chemistry.

For further details, please contact, Murukan Velayudhan (girieye@vsnl.com)

Date: Wednesday, 29 April 2015

From: Revanth Kumar (revanth.kumar@indiavisioninstitute.org)

Subject: The synthetic cornea eliminates the need for donors and could restore sight to millions of people worldwide

A new synthetic cornea restores partial vision to millions of people worldwide. Developed by scientists in Sweden, Canada and California, the new cornea is made from artificial collagen in the lab and when transplanted into a patient's eye, encourages damaged cells to regenerate and colonize the new tissue. After two years with a biosynthetic cornea, a majority of patients with the artificial corneas had significantly improved vision about the same as a human cornea transplant.

The results were published this week in the journal Science Translational Medicine.

"This approach could help restore sight to millions of people," said Griffith.

Even better, by integrating the cornea recipients' own cells into the synthetic cornea, the patients should fight off infections more easily, and be more comfortable.

"Once those cells grow back they can help contribute to better protection of the cornea. There is always a dearth of donor tissue and this would help bypass that" said ShuktiChakravarti, a professor at Johns Hopkins Medical Institute.

For now the synthetic corneas only work in people with advanced keratoconus. "New studies are being planned that will extend the use of the biosynthetic cornea to a wider range of sight-threatening conditions requiring transplantation," said Per Fagerholm, a doctor in Sweden and co-author of this study.

Article Source: <http://news.discovery.com/tech/synthetic-cornea-blind-vision.htm>

Date: Thursday, 30, April 2015

From: Sandhya Shekar (sandhya.shekar@indiavisioninstitute.org)

Subject: Why Did Pirates Wear Eye Patches?

The fact that some pirates wore eye patches most likely had nothing to do with a missing eye, and everything to do with being able to see—specifically, above decks and below them.

Jim Sheedy, a doctor of vision science and director of the Vision Performance Institute at Oregon's Pacific University, told the Wall Street Journal that while the eyes adapt quickly when going from darkness to light, studies have shown that it can take up to 25 minutes for them to adapt when going from bright light to darkness, which "requires the regeneration of photo pigments."

Pirates frequently had to move above and below decks, from daylight to near darkness, and Sheedy says the smart ones "wore a patch over one eye to keep it dark-adapted outside." When the pirate went below decks, he could switch the patch to the outdoor eye and see in the darkness easily (potentially to fight while boarding and plundering another vessel).

ARE WE SURE?

Though there are no first-person sources from history that state this as fact, there's no question that keeping one eye dark-adapted works. MythBusters tested this hypothesis in their pirate special in 2007 and determined that it was plausible (only the lack of historical sources kept it from being confirmed). At least one military manual for pilots pointed out that "Even though a bright light may shine in one eye, the other will retain its dark adaptation, if it is protected from the light. This is a useful bit of information, because a flyer can preserve dark adaptation in one eye by simply closing it." Even the FAA recommends that "a pilot should close one eye when using a light to preserve some degree of night vision."

Article Source: <http://mentalfloss.com/article/52493/why-did-pirates-wear-eye-patches>

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