

# Seeing is learning: providing vision care to rural primary school children in China

<b>Submission date</b> 17/09/2012	<b>Recruitment status</b> No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
<b>Registration date</b> 25/09/2012	<b>Overall study status</b> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
<b>Last Edited</b> 02/05/2025	<b>Condition category</b> Eye Diseases	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

## Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims:

World Bank studies suggest that approximately 1 in 10 of all primary school children in developing countries have problems with their eyesight. The majority of childrens eye problems are caused by refraction errors, which can be corrected with properly fitted eyeglasses. However, most children with refraction problems in low-income countries do not have glasses. Studies in Southern China show that 1 in 5 children have uncorrected vision, and impaired vision among students in rural China, can have potential adverse consequences on education.

Who can participate?

All fourth and fifth grade students in the sample schools.

What does the study involve?

All fourth and fifth grade students in the sample schools will be screened for vision problems. Those children found to have uncorrected vision will be prescribed and fitted with a pair of glasses. Depending on the group they are assigned to, they will either receive a free pair of glasses, receive a voucher to go pick up a free pair of glasses from the nearest optician, or receive nothing (the control). Each of these groups will also receive an educational training which focuses on the benefits of proper eye care. However, a sub group will receive no glasses and no training. By the end of the study, all students with uncorrected vision in the sample, regardless of which group they were assigned to, will be given a pair of glasses.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

Students with uncorrected vision will receive a free pair of quality spectacles. There are no significant risks to participating.

Where is the study run from?

Stanford University, USA and Beijing, China

When is study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

October 2012 to June 2013

Who is funding the study?

Luxottica Corporation, Essilor Corporation, CLSA Investment Brokerage and private donors.

Who is the main contact?

Matthew Boswell

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## Contact information

### Type(s)

Scientific

### Contact name

Dr Scott Rozelle

### Contact details

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## Additional identifiers

### Protocol serial number

N/A

## Study information

### Scientific Title

Seeing is learning: providing vision care to rural primary school children in China: a cluster randomized trial

### Study objectives

We predict twelve percent of the sample will have uncorrected vision problems [primarily short-sightedness (i.e., myopia)]. We predict that correcting these vision problems will raise the academic achievement among student who receive corrective glasses.

### Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

### Ethics approval(s)

Stanford University Institutional Review Board, 15 July 2012, ref: 6208

Zhongshan University [Sun Yat-sen University] Institutional Review Board

### Study design

Cluster randomized control trial

**Primary study design**

Interventional

**Study type(s)**

Quality of life

**Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied**

Vision care

**Interventions**

Free Glasses (80 schools)

Voucher for Free Glasses (can be transferred at the nearest eyeglass shop in the county seat; 80 schools)

Control (80 schools)

Education intervention (crosscutting; 120 schools)

Pure control (no education, no glasses; 40 schools)

**Intervention Type**

Other

**Phase**

Not Applicable

**Primary outcome(s)**

Measured in both a baseline and follow-up survey:

1. Number of children wearing glasses

2. School performance, determined from a standardized test we will administer and students grades

**Key secondary outcome(s)**

Knowledge of vision care and mental health, such as anxiety, mental health, self-esteem, and enjoyment of school.

**Completion date**

30/06/2013

**Eligibility****Key inclusion criteria**

Fourth and fifth grade students in 250 randomly selected primary schools in Yulin Prefecture, Shaanxi Province and Tianshui Prefecture, Gansu Province.

**Participant type(s)**

Patient

**Healthy volunteers allowed**

No

**Age group**

Child

**Sex**

All

**Key exclusion criteria**

Students with ailments or conditions that prevents them from being safely dilated and given a proper corrective vision prescription (existing literature indicates this would be at most one percent of the sample population)

**Date of first enrolment**

20/09/2012

**Date of final enrolment**

30/06/2013

**Locations****Countries of recruitment**

China

United States of America

**Study participating centre****Stanfor University**

Stanford

United States of America

CA 94305

**Sponsor information****Organisation**

Stanford University (USA)

**ROR**

<https://ror.org/00f54p054>

**Funder(s)****Funder type**

Industry

**Funder Name**

Luxottica Corporation (Italy)

**Funder Name**

Essilor Corporation (USA)

**Funder Name**

CLSA Investments (USA)

**Funder Name**

Private Donor

## Results and Publications

**Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan**

Not provided at time of registration

**IPD sharing plan summary**

Not provided at time of registration

**Study outputs**

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
<a href="#">Results article</a>	results	23/09/2014		Yes	No
<a href="#">Results article</a>	results	01/07/2018		Yes	No
<a href="#">Results article</a>		19/02/2022	21/02/2022	Yes	No
<a href="#">Results article</a>		13/05/2023	15/05/2023	Yes	No
<a href="#">Results article</a>		01/05/2025	02/05/2025	Yes	No