

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

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

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Additional identifiers

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**Stanford 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?
Results article	results	23/09/2014		Yes	No
Results article	results	01/07/2018		Yes	No
Results article		19/02/2022	21/02/2022	Yes	No
Results article		13/05/2023	15/05/2023	Yes	No
Results article		01/05/2025	02/05/2025	Yes	No