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

**Submission date**
17/09/2012

**Recruitment status**
No longer recruiting

**Registration date**
25/09/2012

**Overall study status**
Completed

**Last Edited**
02/05/2025

**Condition category**
Eye Diseases

[_] Prospectively registered
[_] Protocol
[_] Statistical analysis plan
[X] Results
[_] 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
boswell@stanford.edu

# Contact information

### Type(s)
Scientific

### Contact name
Dr Scott Rozelle

### Contact details
Stanfor University
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East Wing, Room 402
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CA 94305

# 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

### Primary study design
Interventional

### Study design
Cluster randomized control trial

### 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)
Messured 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? |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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 |