

education and promotion in Canada. *Can J Ophthalmol* 2006; **41**(5): 617–623.

- 5 Rosenthal B, Thompson B. Awareness of age-related macular degeneration in adults: the results of a large-scale international survey. *Optometry* 2003; **74**(1): 16–24.

M Waisbourd, A Rabinovitch, G Heilweil, M Goldstein and A Loewenstein

Department of Ophthalmology, Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center, Israel

E-mails: michaw@netvision.net.il or mwaisbourd@hotmail.com

*Eye* (2007) **21**, 998–999; doi:10.1038/sj.eye.6702787; published online 16 March 2007

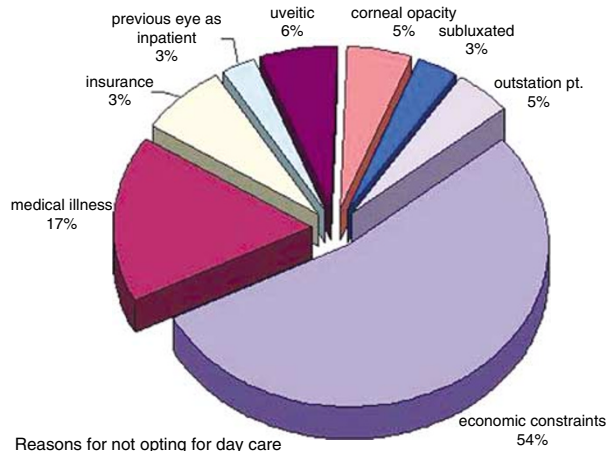
Sir,  
**Day care vs inpatient cataract surgery: factors governing choices of patients and surgeons in the developing world**

Day care surgery has been proven to be economical and a more patient friendly option in the developed world.<sup>1</sup> Even with its benefits, many patients do not opt for day care services. Using the cataract surgery register of our hospital, we identified those patients who were treated as in-patients and analysed the reasons for not treating them on day care basis. The reasons for not performing day care cataract surgery in these patients were analysed. A total of 1160 patients were posted for cataract surgery between January and June 2006, of which 260 patients (22.4%) were operated as in-patients. Many poor patients refused day care ( $n = 133$ ; 51.1%) and opted for inpatient surgery citing economic reasons, as existing government policy provided free surgery only on in-patient admission. Eighteen (6.9%) refused day care because their medical insurance benefit required inpatient hospital stay. Seven (2.6%) had the other eye operated after admission few years back and were more comfortable with the inpatient care. Twelve (4.6%) wanted admission because they were outstation patients.

Inpatient admission and cataract surgery was advised by the operating surgeon in cases with systemic illness ( $n = 41$ ; 15.7%) and complicated cataract ( $n = 49$ ; 18.8%). Of the cases which were diagnosed to have complicated cataract, 16 had post-uveitic cataract, 13 had corneal opacity due to healed keratitis, eight had subluxated cataractous lens (Figure 1).

**Comment**

Cataract accounts for about 40% of the cases of treatable blindness all over the world. Day care cataract surgery is a relatively newer strategy for government hospitals in developing countries where resources of inpatient care are limited.<sup>2,3</sup> In settings offering in-patient and day care services, the impetus should be towards channelisation of more patients towards day care. This should include government and infrastructure support for day care surgery of routine cataracts. Utmost care should be taken



**Figure 1** Pie chart showing the distribution of various factors for rejection of patients in day care cataract surgery service.

in the preoperative assessment done at out patient basis. However, as noted in our study, many patients will require inpatient care and thus both systems should coexist synergistically. The reasons for rejection of a patient in day care cataract services therefore require proper validation.

**References**

- 1 Fedorowicz Z, Lawrence DJ, Gutierrez P. A Cochrane Systematic Review finds no significant difference in outcome or risk of postoperative complications between day care and in-patient cataract surgery. *Saudi Med J* 2006; **27**: 1296–1301.
- 2 Cresswell PA, Allen ED, Tomkinson J, Chapman FM, Pickering S, Donaldson LJ. Cost effectiveness of a single function treatment center for cataract surgery. *J Cataract Refract Surg* 1996; **22**: 940–946.
- 3 Ingram RM, Banerjee D, Traynar MJ, Thompson RK. Day-case cataract surgery. *Trans Ophthalmol Soc UK* 1980; **100**(part 1): 205–209.

G Prakash, V Jhanji, N Sharma and JS Titiyal

Cataract and Cornea and Refractive Surgery Services, Rajendra Prasad Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi 110029, India  
E-mail: titiyal@rediffmail.com

Propriety interests: none

*Eye* (2007) **21**, 999; doi:10.1038/sj.eye.6702790; published online 4 May 2007

Sir,  
**Orbital cellulitis following intralesional corticosteroid injection for periocular capillary haemangioma**  
Intralesional corticosteroid injection is a treatment for capillary haemangioma of the orbit and eyelid which rarely gives rise to serious complications.<sup>1</sup> We report a