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TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION	1C
INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS	1F
EDITORIAL NOTES – Newborn Screening for Sickle Cell Disease – G. E. Erhabor.....	237
World Hearing Day – Impaired Hearing and Noise Culture	238
– T.S. Ibekwe, S.O. Ayodele, Y.B. Amusa, G. E. Erhabor	
ORIGINAL ARTICLES	
A Clinico-Pathological Study of Vulvo-Vaginal Disease at a Nigerian Tertiary Health Facility	241
I. Emmanuel, P. O. Akpa, D. Yakubu, E. N. Yakubu, B. S. Otene, B. C. Dallang, B. K. Adedeji, B. W. Audu, T. N. Fadok, C. Amaike, A. N. Manasseh, B. M. Mandong	
Abnormalities of Kidney Function in Acute Malarial and non-Malarial Infections	247
O. Efuntoye, S. Ajayi, Y. Raji, B. L. Salako, A. Arije, S. Kadiri	
Accuracy of Whole Blood Cardiac Troponin I in the Diagnosis of Childhood Heart Failure at the University College Hospital, Ibadan	254
A. Hamza, S. I. Omokhodion	
Clients' Perception of Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Services received before and during the COVID-19 Outbreak in Nigeria's Epicenter.....	262
M. Balogun, T. Olubodun, O. Ubani, V. Yesufu, A. Sekoni, F. Ogunsola	
Decisional Conflict amongst Women Undergoing Caesarean Section in Health Facilities in Ibadan, Nigeria.....	269
A. I. Anih, O. O. Ogunbode, A. O. Okedare	
Evaluation of Primary School Health Environment in Ido/Osi Local Government Area, Ekiti State, Nigeria	277
E. O. Adeyemi, O. S. Olatunya, O. B. Bolaji, O. A. Lawal, W. A. Ajetunmobi, A. O. Adaje, C. E. Onyema, P. N. Omefe, O. Fayemi, S. O. Ajigbotosho, J. C. Okolugbo	
Socioeconomic Parameters and Well Being of Sickle Cell Anaemic Patients in Southwestern Nigeria	284
T. A. Obembe, O. O. Akinyemi, O. A. Adeyanju, T. Ilori, I. E. Okunade	
Effect of COVID-19 Pandemic on Utilization of Paediatric Health Services at the Federal Medical Centre, Asaba, Nigeria..	292
B. U. Ezeonwu, C. O. Okike, K. A. Adeniran, E. E. Omoyibo, E. Onyeka-Okite, H. I. Opara, U. C. Ajanwenyi Joseph, O. M. Uwadia, A. A. Okolo	
Acceptability of Newborn Screening for Sickle Cell Disease among Post-Partum Mothers in Abakaliki, South East Nigeria...	298
O. C. Nnachi, A. A. Umeokonkwo, H. C. Okoye, A. N. Ekwe, C. O. Akpa, A. E. Okoye	
Effect of Frequency of Antenatal Care Contacts on Maternal and Fetal Outcome in Low-Risk Pregnancies at Federal Teaching Hospital Gombe, Nigeria	305
A. B. Rabiu, A. U. El-Nafaty, B. Bako, M. D. Yahaya	
Missed Opportunity for Routine Childhood Vaccination in Urban and Rural Areas of Edo State, Nigeria:	
A Comparative Study	312
V. O. Omuemu, E. O. Ogboghodo, J. Erhunmwunsee	
Pattern of Abdominal Trauma and Treatment Outcome in a Nigerian Tertiary Hospital	321
E. Ray-Offor, V. Enebeli, S. E. B. Ibeanusi	
Vision-Related Quality of Life after Cataract Surgery in West Africa.....	329
I. Signes-Soler, J. Javaloy, R. Montés-Micó, G. Muñoz, R. Montalbán, A. Hernández, C. Albarrán-Diego	
Barriers and Facilitators of Isoniazid Preventive Therapy Implementation among People Living with HIV in Nigeria: A Scoping Review of the Literature.....	336
V. A. Adepoju, A. Adelekan, O. E. Adepoju, O. I. Onyezue, W. Imoyeria, A. Nkeiruka, A. B. Olofinbiyi	
Tape Rule Measurement of Foot Length as Proxy for Vernier Digital Calliper in Estimating Gestational Age among Nigerian Neonates.....	345
O. Kuponiyi, T. Ogunlesi, A. Adekanmbi, O. Akodu, M. Olowonyo	
INDEX TO VOLUME 40, NO. 3, 2023	
Author Index	351
Subject Index	352



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Vision-Related Quality of Life after Cataract Surgery in West Africa

Qualité de vie Liée à la Vision Après une Chirurgie de la Cataracte en Afrique de l'Ouest

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ABSTRACT

PURPOSE: To study vision related quality of life (VRQoL) before and after a massive cataract campaign in West Africa and the relationship with visual indicators.

METHODS: All the patients who received cataract surgery in Burkina Faso during a blindness prevention campaign were examined. VRQoL was assessed using a modified version of the WHO/PBD VF20. The questionnaire was changed to reflect the socioeconomic and local culture. Patients were interviewed by local interviewers before and three months after surgery. A quality of life related to vision index (QoL-RVI) was calculated.

RESULTS: A total of 305 patients underwent cataract extraction in at least one eye, of these, a total of 196 (64%) completed the study. Mean age was 61.97 ± 14.39 years. The majority of eyes had poor visual acuity ($VA < 20/200$, logMAR: 1.0) preoperatively (88.70%) with a mean VA of logMAR 2.17 ± 0.70 (20/2000) which improved to 0.86 ± 0.64 LogMAR (20/150) 3 months after cataract surgery. QoL-RVI improved postoperatively in 90.2% of patients, did not change in 3.1% and was worse in 6.7%. Statistically significant differences were detected (Wilcoxon test $p < 0.05$) for all items tested before and after surgeries. Correlations for the patients after operations showed that there was a statistically significant relation between a global estimated QoL-RVI and the VA previous to the surgery ($-0.196 p=0.014$), regarding the same index and the VA after the procedures ($-0.35 p=0.00018$).

CONCLUSION: Cataract surgery increases the quality of life of patients living in a developing country such as Burkina Faso and the improvement correlates with the recovery of the visual acuity. **WAJM 2023; 40(3): 329–335.**

Keywords: Quality of life, Cataracts, Blindness, West Africa.

RÉSUMÉ

OBJECTIF: Étudier la qualité de vie liée à la vision (VRQoL) avant et après une campagne massive contre la cataracte en Afrique de l'Ouest et la relation avec les indicateurs visuels.

MÉTHODES: Tous les patients qui ont été opérés de la cataracte au Burkina Faso pendant une campagne de prévention de la cécité ont été examinés. La VRQoL a été évaluée en utilisant une version modifiée du VF20 de l'OMS/PBD. Le questionnaire a été modifié pour refléter la culture socio-économique et locale. Les patients ont été interrogés par des enquêteurs locaux avant et trois mois après la chirurgie. Un indice de qualité de vie liée à la vision (QoL-RVI) a été calculé.

RÉSULTATS: Un total de 305 patients ont subi une extraction de la cataracte dans au moins un œil, parmi ceux-ci, un total de 196 (64%) ont terminé l'étude. L'âge moyen était de $61,97 \pm 14,39$ ans. La majorité des yeux avaient une mauvaise acuité visuelle ($AV < 20/200$, logMAR : 1,0) en préopératoire (88,70%) avec une VA moyenne de logMAR $2,17 \pm 0,70$ (20/2000) qui s'est améliorée à $0,86 \pm 0,64$ LogMAR (20/150) 3 mois après la chirurgie de la cataracte. La QoL-RVI s'est améliorée après l'opération chez 90,2% des patients, n'a pas changé chez 3,1% et s'est aggravée chez 6,7%. Des différences statistiquement significatives ont été détectées (test de Wilcoxon $p < 0,05$) pour tous les éléments testés avant et après les opérations. Les corrélations pour les patients après les opérations ont montré qu'il y avait une relation statistiquement significative entre une estimation globale de la QoL-RVI et l'AV avant l'opération ($-0,196 p=0,014$), concernant le même indice et l'AV après les procédures ($-0,35 p=0,00018$).

CONCLUSION: La chirurgie de la cataracte augmente la qualité de vie des patients vivant dans un pays en voie de développement comme le Burkina Faso et cette amélioration est corrélée avec la récupération de l'acuité visuelle. **WAJM 2023; 40(3): 329–335.**

Mots clés: Qualité de Vie, Cataracte, Cécité, Afrique de l'Ouest.

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Abbreviations: VRQoL, Vision Related Quality of Life; QoL, Quality of Life; QoL-RVI, Quality of life related to Vision Index; VA, Visual Acuity; CDVA, Corrected Distance Visual Acuity; UCVA, Uncorrected Visual Acuity; BCVA, Best Corrected Visual Acuity; WHO, World Health Organization; WHO/QoL, World Health Organization Quality of Life; WHO/PBD-VFQ-20, Quality of Life and Vision Function Questionnaire; QoL-RVI, Quality of Life Related to Vision Index.