

R1 R2 R3 PG0 PG1 Estagiário Tecnólogo PIBIC

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Service (sector)

Cornea and External Disease

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Validity of questionnaire for determination of allergic conjunctivitis in children.

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Introduction: Allergic conjunctivitis is found in 20% of the population, of which 15% are mild forms. In Brazil, there are few data concerning allergic conjunctivitis epidemiology.

Purpose: To validate a fifteen question questionnaire for the detection of allergic conjunctivitis.

Methods: A questionnaire, consisting of 15 questions, was applied to 58 children (20 cases and 38 controls). 10 ophthalmologists evaluated this same questionnaire and 10 pediatricians who classified each question as "considerable" or "not considerable", according to the importance for the diagnosis. Questions receiving more than 60% of "considerable importance" evaluation were worth 2 points, as the others, 1 point. Children who answered "yes" received 1 or 2 points according to the attributed score for that question. Those who answered "no" received "zero" scores. The total score represents the sum of those scores. The questionnaire was applied to the case group for a second time, 4 weeks later, to evaluate its reproducibility. Sensitivity and specificity for each question were calculated, and scores for both groups were compared. Chi-Squared was calculated for each question, $p < 0.10$ was considered significant. It was built a "cut-off score" between the allergic and non-allergic using ROC curve.

Results: Case group mean age was 7.8 y.o., with predominance of males (70%), whereas in control group, 8.9 y.o., with no gender predominance. Questions number 2, 3, 5 and 8 presented more than 60% of agreement as question of "considerable importance". Therefore maximum global score for the questionnaire was 19 points and minimum, zero. Mean case group global score was $12.25 \pm 4,6$ points and for the control group, $2.6 \pm 2,7$. Twelve children from the case group answered the questionnaire for the second time. Questions number 9, 10, 11 and 12 showed no statistical significance ($p < 0,10$) between case and control groups, although they presented a bread to affirmative answer in case group. Cut off score obtained by ROC curve was 6 points.

Conclusion: The questionnaire included important topics related to ocular allergy. Therefore, it may be applied to determine the prevalence of allergic conjunctivitis, selecting children with suggestive symptoms (total score higher than 6 points), who may need further diagnostic investigation.