

R1 R2 R3 PG0 PG1 Estagiário Tecnólogo Medical Student Last Name - Moriyama First Name - Aline Middle - Silveira

Service (sector) Cataract N° CEP

Cost analysis of outpatient cataract extraction at the Department of Ophthalmology at the Federal University of São Paulo

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Purpose: The present study aims at analyzing the cost and the economic feasibility of outpatient cataract extraction both by conventional extracapsular cataract extraction and phacoemulsification at the Department of Ophthalmology at the Federal University of São Paulo/ Paulista School of Medicine, when considering the government remuneration (Sistema Único de Saúde, SUS).

Methods: Variable and fixed costs (direct, indirect and apportionment) of conventional extracapsular cataract extraction and phacoemulsification were inventoried and submitted to accounting analysis in patients with cataract attended in the month of June 2002 through a government program (Sistema Único de Saúde, SUS), at the Ophthalmic outpatient clinic of the Federal University of São Paulo.

Results: 292 cataract extractions were included in the study. 262 (89,73%), of these were phacoemulsification with posterior chamber lens implant and the mean cost of this procedure was R\$576,68 (US\$230.67). Thirty (10,27%) were conventional extracapsular cataract extraction with rigid PMMA posterior chamber lens implant and the mean cost of this procedure was R\$422,46 (US\$168.98).

Conclusion: The government pays by the Sistema Único de Saúde R\$443,00 (US\$177.20) for the conventional extracapsular extraction and R\$643,00 (US\$257.20) for the phacoemulsification. We conclude that these procedures are feasible in this department without financial deficit. It must be noted however that these results apply to the specific situation of the department studied and that under market conditions and adopting the same technological quality different values would apply with possible increased costs, and less likely economic feasibility. *both authors worked the same