

R1 R2 R3 PG0 PG1 Estagiário Tecnólogo
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Santos

Service (sector) Cataract N° CEP

Age-Related Cataract at Laranjal do Jari, Amapá

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Purpose: To present a population based study on age-related cataract observed during a screening survey of the local population of Laranjal do Jari, Amapá **Methods:** An ophthalmologic survey for ocular diseases at the town of Laranjal do Jari, Amapá in August 2001. Individuals aged 40 years or older with visual complaints were invited for an ophthalmologic examination. The ophthalmic evaluation consisted of visual acuity measurement, biomicroscopy and funduscopy. The lens opacities were graded according to a modified Lens Opacities Classification System III. Subjects with a lens opacity were included in this study. The exclusion criteria were other significant ocular diseases. **Results:** A total of 362 subjects were enrolled in the study. Thirty-three eyes (4.56%) had had previous cataract surgery. Lens opacities corresponding to nuclear color and/or opalescence were detected in 686 eyes (95.02%). Cortical changes were found in 240 (34.73%) eyes and posterior capsular changes in 85 (12.30%) eyes. Statistically significant correlations between degree of nuclear opacity and age ($r = 0.61$ $p < 0.001$) and degree of nuclear opacity and visual acuity ($r = 0,32$ $p < 0.001$) were found. The frequency of low vision (worse than 6/18 to a lower limit of 6/120) and blindness (worse than 6/120) were 16,85% and 4.42%, respectively. **Conclusions:** Nuclear lens opacity is a frequent finding in subjects with visual complaints, increases with age and causes low vision and blindness in older subjects. This study provides data on lens opacities in a population with visual disturbances and emphasizes the importance of providing treatment for this disease.