

R1  R2  R3  PG0  PG1  Estagiário  Tecnólogo   
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Service (sector) Cornea and External Disease N° CEP

### **BLINDING TRACHOMA AMONG MAKU NATIVE BRAZILIANS**

**AUTHORS:** Oliveira, Norimar ; Bont, Marc ; Bont Herma; Toledo, Noeli; Lousada, Jaime **PURPOSE** To assess the epidemiology of trachoma among Maku Indians in Rio Negro basin, Amazon. **METHODS:** A cross - sectional study was performed in ten Maku villages, including 671 inhabitants. Informed consent was obtained using native interpreters, no unwillingness to enter the study was present. Trachoma detection was made by local primary care health professionals trained to identify the signs of the disease. The positive cases were classified according to WHO guidelines. Treatment and counseling were offered to all participants. A descriptive analysis is presented. **RESULTS:** Active trachoma (TF and/or TI) was identified in 77,3% of children £10 years (estimated age). Trachomatous scarring and corneal opacity were found in 45% and 3,5% of adults respectively. Detection of trachomatous trichiasis was more frequent in female when compared to male adults. Bilateral blindness due trachoma was present in 1,6% of the adults. **CONCLUSIONS:** Blinding trachoma in Rio Negro basin showed a high prevalence among the studied population. Therefore, trachoma among Maku native Brazilians deserves to be considered a health public priority.