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Visual Screening of Residents of a Social Institution

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Purpose : A survey to determine the ocular health of the residents of a Social Institution called “Casa do Menor“

Methods : The 38 residents (ages varying from 4 to 26 years old) had their eyes examined by 4 Ophthalmologists and 4 Ophthalmic Technicians during a single day at the Secondary Reference Center of Ophthalmology (CERESO). The ocular examination included the following : medical and ocular history, external ocular motility, visual acuity (without and with best correction), dynamic and static refraction, slit lamp examination and indirect fundoscopy.

Results : 55 % of the patients had ocular symptoms, and the most common complaints were headache and ocular pain (24 % each). 82 % had never undergone an ocular examination . 33 % of the residents were without refractive errors and only 6 % needed optical corrections. The most common refractive error found was hyperopia less than 2D (49 % of the eyes with refractive errors). We did not find any case of anisometropia or strabismus. One patient had the diagnosis of amblyopia. The anterior biomicroscopy revealed blepharitis in 7 patients and 1 case suspected of having an ectatic disorder of the cornea. The indirect fundoscopy showed 3 eyes with chorioretinal scars and 1 case suspect of having glaucoma. The patients who needed more investigation or medical intervention were referred to the specific departments of the Federal University of São Paulo .

Conclusion : The prevalence of refractive errors (6%) was the expected for the population of the study. A large number (82 %) of the patients had their first ocular examination in this opportunity showing a deficient ocular health care system.