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Service (sector) Strabismus N° CEP

A Cost analysis of therapy for Amblyopia

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Objective: To analyze the costs of therapy for amblyopia using the occlusion of the normal-sighted eye. Methods: A prospective study was realized to evaluate the costs of therapy for amblyopia at the strabismus sector of Hospital São Paulo - Universidade Federal de São Paulo. Children with amblyopia ranged in age from 3 years to 7 years old were included in the study. The follow information were collected: name, age, sex, type of amblyopia (strabismic, anisometropic, deprivation), visual acuity with or without correction, cicloplegic refractive error, prescription or no prescription of glasses, cost of glasses, occlusion trial, type of occludor (patch, plastic or home made), cost of occludor, number of occludors daily used, children guardians, cost of workday of the guardians, means of transport used, cost of transport, family income, occlusion compliance (total, parcial or none). For analyzing the results, costs were separated in directs (glasses and occludors) and indirects (transport and others). Patients were followed since the diagnose time until three consecutive visits. Results: Fourteen patients were analyzed. The duration of the occlusion treatment we followed varied from 12 weeks to 15 weeks. The average cost of therapy for amblyopia since the diagnose until the third visit was R\$ 181,78. Conclusions: The therapy for amblyopia had an increasing cost. The commercially available occlusive patches used in most of the patients are generally responsible for the most part of the costs of therapy for amblyopia.