

Oberdorfer Minisymposium: Economic Evaluation of the Impact of Visual Impairment and Interventions for Low Vision

Sun, May 04, 3:15pm-5:00pm

The Oberdorfer Minisymposium will honor a prominent, leading researcher in the field of valuation of health for economic evaluation and preference-based measures of health. Speakers will present evidence on the performance of health economic outcome measures in patients with low vision. The presentations will cover the applications of various measurement tools used in health economics research for low vision, and findings from previous studies involving patients with visual impairment. In addition, speakers will propose new future areas to explore in the evaluation of the impact of vision loss and interventions for the visually-impaired, including aspects of low vision care that fall outside of the traditional remit of cost-utility analysis.

Speakers:

David B. Rein

Public Health, NORC at the University of Chicago, Atlanta Office, GA

Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation; a Three-pronged Approach to Optimizing Visual Health, presented by the 2014 Oberdorfer Low Vision Awardee

Presentation Description: Visual problems represent one of the top contributors to economic health burden in the United States, with an economic burden that is nearly equally divided between direct expenditures for the care and treatment of visual problems and the indirect costs of outcomes caused by low vision, including productivity losses, the cost of care and incremental nursing home placements. The majority of academic and industry driven visual health research is devoted to the biology of the visual system, and to the medical treatment of visual disorders. However, population visual health and the functionality that depends upon it may also benefit greatly from additional research into areas of prevention, rehabilitation, and adaptation. Several economic tools, including resource allocation models, value of information analyses, and the adoption of a portfolio approach towards research funding can help to maximize visual health and scientific discovery while minimizing the functional impacts of visual impairment across the population. This presentation reviews new estimates of the burden of visual problems and the causes of this burden, relates this burden to research efforts in the field, and then discusses how different types of economic studies at different phases of the policy process can help minimize the impacts of low vision.

Gianni Virgili

Ophthalmology, University of Florence, Florence, Italy

Use of utilities in economic evaluations of treatments for eye diseases

Presentation Description: The potential choices regarding the utility source in economic evaluations of treatment for eye disease will be reviewed. The impact of different choices on cost-utility will be presented with reference to recent examples of economic evaluations. Type of study, population and the methods used to extract or derive utilities may cause differences regarding how low-vision is valued as determinant of quality of life in cost-utility models, affecting the assessment of cost-effectiveness of treatments for eye diseases.

Jill Keeffe

L V Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad, India

How do Effective Low Vision Services Impact on the Costs and Outcomes for an Individual and the Society?

Presentation Description: Outcome measures will be reviewed in their ability to show differences across domains of quality of life which can be related to the range and types of interventions. The effect of changes after low vision services can also impact on the direct, indirect and personal costs with some increasing and others reduced after interventions

Thomas Butt

Institute of Ophthalmology, University College London, London, United Kingdom

New Methods for Valuing Benefits of Low Vision Interventions

Presentation Description: Health care decision makers frequently require outcomes to be measured using quality-adjusted life years (QALYs) in order to determine whether to fund an intervention. However, low vision interventions may provide a range of benefits for patients that are not directly counted by the QALY. This talk demonstrates new methods for including non-health benefits in cost-effectiveness analysis. A discrete choice experiment is used to weight QALYs by disease severity, unmet need, and process of care. The impact of including these attributes when assessing the cost-effectiveness of interventions for patients with age-related macular degeneration will be demonstrated.

Kevin Frick

Johns Hopkins Carey Business School, Baltimore, MD

Economics and Low Vision: Incentives and Cost-Effectiveness

Presentation Description: This presentation will focus on the economic evaluation of low vision. This includes consideration of the incentives to obtain care for low vision, the resources required to obtain care for low vision, the impact on quality of life and disability associated with low vision, and the cost-effectiveness of different methods of caring for individuals with low vision.