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Publication Date

2020

Data Availability

The data associated with this publication are not available for this reason: N/A



Outcomes in Pediatric Glaucoma

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Introduction

- Pediatric Glaucoma is a heterogeneous group of disorders with unique management challenges, namely an uncommon occurrence, with restricted evaluation techniques, and young patients.
- Challenges faced in treatment plans:
 - Young eyes are more sensitive so elevated IOP can cause structural changes to the eye (e.g. buphthalmos)
 - Etiology of vision impairment is multifactorial
- Previously studied risk factors for visual impairment are unilateral disease, multiple surgeries, poor vision at diagnosis, and other ocular comorbidities.
- Chang et. al (2018) conducted a pilot study of 15 pediatric patients and examined the impact of certain predictive factors on long-term visual acuity and IOP-control outcomes and creating a severity scale.

Objectives

- Determine visual outcomes and risk factors for vision loss for patients with childhood onset glaucoma
- Externally validate the severity scale being developed by the Childhood Glaucoma Research Network
- Explore potential additional risk factors that may impact long term visual outcomes: insurance type, patient adherence to prescribed follow-up (number of no-show appointments)

Methods

- Retrospective study of UC Davis patients from 2000-2019
- Inclusion criteria: Pediatric patient with a diagnosis of pediatric glaucoma or Adult patient with history of pediatric glaucoma, previously diagnosed and/or treated
- Exclusion criteria: Patients with less than 5 years of follow-up
- 169 of 177 childhood glaucoma patients, with 93 patients meeting 5 year follow-up requirement
- Main outcome: final best-corrected visual acuity, based on WHO classification
- Univariate analysis

Patient Characteristics

	(months)	(years)
Age at presentation		
Mean ± SD	55.69 ± 74.74	4.69 ± 6.23
Range	0 – 444	0 – 37
Gender (n, %)		
Male	46 (49%)	
Female	47 (47%)	
Race (n, %)		
White	47 (51%)	
Black	5 (5%)	
Asian	4 (4%)	
Multiracial	5 (5%)	
Unknown / not reported	32 (34%)	
Ethnicity (n, %)		
Not Hispanic or Latino	60 (65%)	
Hispanic or Latino	24 (26%)	
Unknown / not reported	9 (9%)	
Insurance type (n, %)		
Private	52 (56%)	
Medicaid	33 (35%)	
Unknown	8 (9%)	
Number of no-show appts		
Mean ± SD	3.98 ± 5.44	
Median	2	
Range	0 – 27	
Duration of follow-up (years)		
Mean ± SD	9.64 ± 3.60	

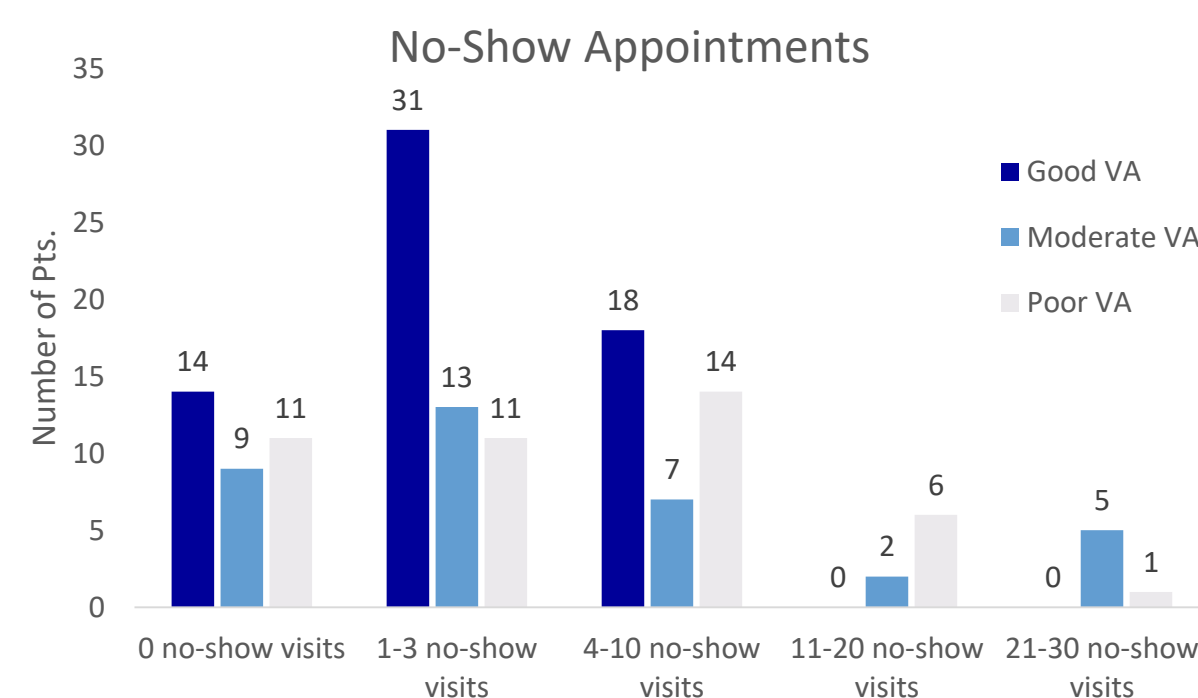


Figure 1. Risk Model and Number of No-Show Appointments: Correlation between good visual acuity (VA) and Fewer No-show appointments.

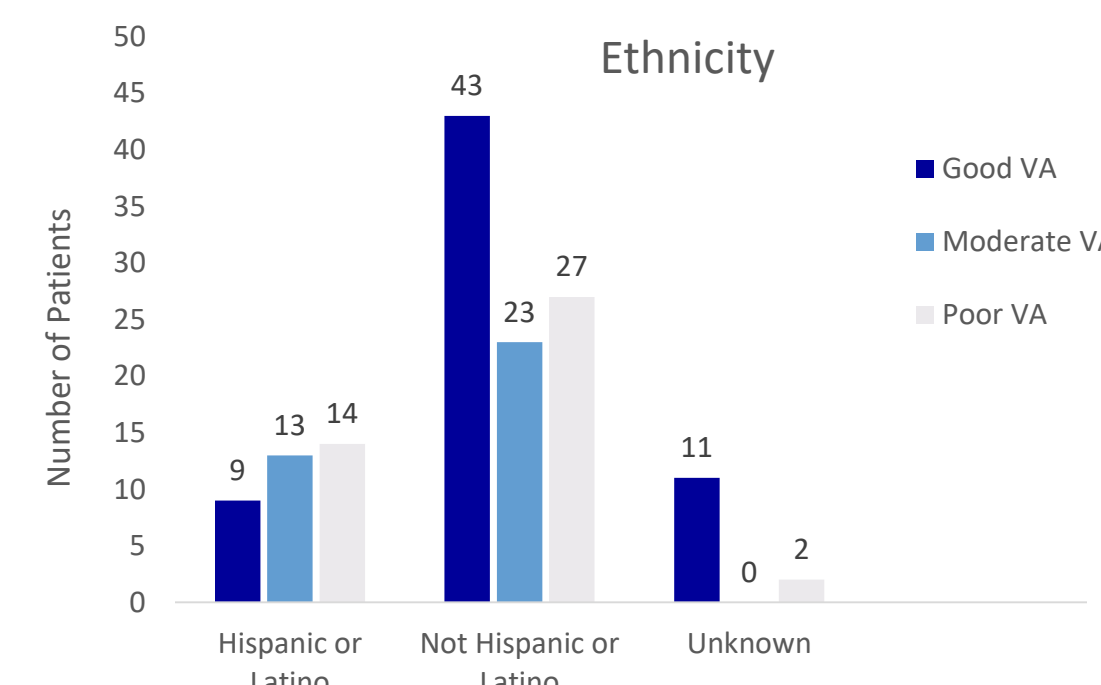


Figure 2. Risk Model and Ethnicity: Correlation between good visual acuity (VA) and not Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.

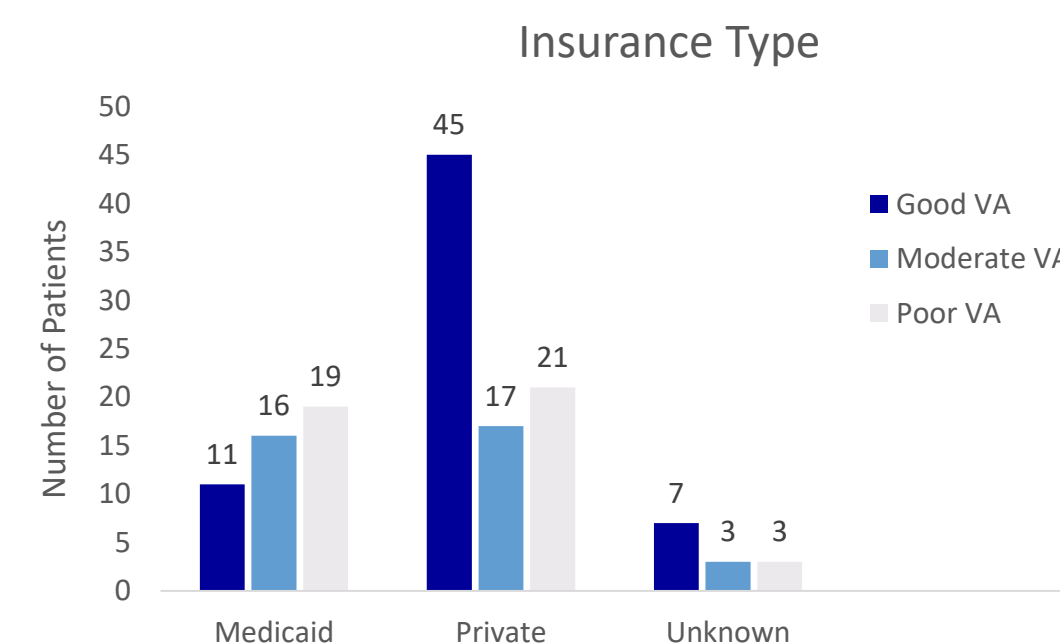


Figure 3. Risk Model and Insurance Type: Correlation between good visual acuity (VA) and Private Insurance.

Significant Correlations

Category	p-value
Demographics	
Gender	0.201
Race	0.515
Ethnicity	0.005
Insurance type	0.021
# of no-show appts	0.024
Disease characteristics	
Laterality	0.163
Glaucoma subtype	0.005
# of surgeries	0.164
Clinical outcomes	
Presence of media opacity	<0.001
Failed amblyopia therapy	<0.000
Failed angle surgery	0.342

Results

- Ethnicity (non-Hispanic and Hispanic or Latino) was associated with poor visual outcomes (p = 0.005).
- Of our 93 patients, 52 (56%) had private insurance, 33 (35%) had Medicaid, and 8 (9%) had unknown insurance type.
- Private insurance was associated with a better outcome (p = 0.021).
- Many patients missed appointments (3.98 ± 5.44 average no-show rate) but increased no-shows were associated with poor visual acuity (p = 0.024).

Conclusion

- Our study confirms previously-studied risk factors for visual impairment: Ethnicity, Glaucoma subtype.
- Moreover, our study confirms long-suspected and highly significant risk factors for visual impairment: Insurance type and Number of no-show appointments.
- Help develop targeted interventions for glaucoma care.
- Largest long-term cohort for childhood glaucoma in the EMR era
- Long-term granular data allows exploration of risk factors for vision loss not previously identified
- Future aims are to expand study to other pediatric glaucoma centers around the United States to further develop risk models for visual loss in childhood glaucoma

Acknowledgements

Dr. James D. Brandt
Dr. Angela Jiang

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