

Subspecialty – Orthoptists



Dr Connie Koklanis (Australia)

• Peer Perceptions of Amblyopia Treatment

Dr Koklanis is the current President of Orthoptics Australia. She is also a lecturer in Orthoptics at La Trobe University and Chief Orthoptist at The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne Victoria. During her presentation at the APAO Sydney Congress, she will discuss peer perceptions of amblyopia treatment.

"Children often feel embarrassed or stigmatised by their amblyopia treatment. However, to date, no study has explored the perceptions and attitudes of children towards their peers undergoing occlusion or atropine penalisation. Our study aimed to investigate the attitudes of children towards peers undergoing amblyopia treatment and to examine if factors such as gender, awareness of amblyopia, and the perceived cause and duration of treatment influenced attitudes."

"Children aged between eight and nine years old underwent a short, structured interview and were asked to complete questionnaires measuring attitudes – the Shared Activity Questionnaire (SAQ) and Adjectives Checklist (ACL) – in response to viewing one of three gender-and aged-matched photographs. The photographs were of a child with no treatment (control), a child wearing a patch, and child with a dilated pupil due to atropine. Children were not given information regarding the child's diagnosis or treatment. The findings of this study will be presented."



Mr Jan-Roelof Polling (The Netherlands)

• Genetic epidemiology of myopia in a birth cohort study: The Generation R Study

Mr Jan-Roelof Polling is a certified orthoptist and a lecturer at the University of Applied Sciences, Utrecht. He is also a research orthoptist at Erasmus MC, University Medical Center, Rotterdam, associated with the population-based Generation R study (www.generationr.nl).

"Myopia is a leading cause of irreversible blindness worldwide. The aetiology of this disease is largely unknown, but it is clear that the disease has a strong genetic component. This study aimed to investigate myopia in a large, prospective, birth cohort study in Rotterdam, the Netherlands."

"At age five years, children participated in an investigation by the Generation R Research Center. The study included a detailed questionnaire and monitoring of daily activities indoors and outdoors. The ophthalmic examination consisted of visual acuity by HOTV logMAR charts, keratometry, axial length measurement with the Zeiss IOL Master and fundus photography."

"A total of 9778 pregnant women who gave birth between April 2002 and January 2006 were enrolled in the study. Of all eligible children, 61 per cent took part in the study. This study is still ongoing but the first 4000 children have already undergone screening."

The results of the study, to date, will be presented during APAO Sydney. The Generation R study will contribute to the development and provide new strategies for optimising health and healthcare for children.

Note: All effort has been made to check facts with each presenter. The writer accepts responsibility for any inadvertent errors in transcript.