

## Late Ophthalmologic referral of Anisometropic Amblyopia: A retrospective study of different Amblyopia subtypes

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### Abstract

**Introduction:** Amblyopia requires a timely diagnosis and treatment to attain maximum vision recovery. Specialty literature is lacking on how early amblyopia is referred. We aimed to understand if there are mean age differences at first referral for ophthalmologic tertiary centre consultation among non-amblyopic and different types of amblyopia, without a population screening.

**Methods:** In this retrospective model, the sample corresponded to all children born in the Hospital of Braga during 1997-2012 (3-18 years-old), with an ophthalmologic consultation in 2014. Data was collected from the clinical database and children were divided in non-amblyopic versus amblyopic group. The amblyopic group was subdivided in strabismic versus refractive (anisometropic/ bilateral). **Results:** The sample had a total of 1665 participants, 1369 (82.2%) without amblyopia and 296 (17.8%) with amblyopia. Among amblyopia: 67.9% (n=201) refractive, 32.1% (n=95) strabismic. Within refractive amblyopia: 63.7% (n=128) anisometropic and 36.3% (n=73) bilateral. The mean age at first consultation was 6.24±3.90 years-old: 6.39±3.98 for non-amblyopic and 5.76±3.58 for amblyopic. Among amblyopia subgroups, there were significant differences in mean age at first consultation (F3,1250 = 8.45; p<.001; η<sup>2</sup> = 0.020). Strabismic and bilateral refractive amblyopia were referred earlier, when compared to non-amblyopia or anisometropic amblyopia (p<.05). Anisometropic amblyopia had the highest first consultation mean age: 6.92±3.57 years-old.

**Discussion:** Without specific pre-school screening, children with amblyopia were referred to their first ophthalmologic evaluation significantly later than desired, specially anisometropic amblyopia, with a postschool mean age for first consultation. **Conclusion:** Recognizing high-risk children is essential for earlier referral and helps minimize future visual handicap.

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### Biography:

Maria J Vieira has completed her MD degree at the age of 25 years from Minho University, Portugal. She is a 2nd year resident of Ophthalmology in "Centro Hospitalar de Leiria", Portugal. She has 2 international publications as 1st author.

### Recent Publications:

1. Development and application of Peptide Nucleic Acid Fluorescence in situ Hybridization for the specific detection of *Listeria monocytogenes*
2. Morphological transition of *Helicobacter pylori* adapted to water
3. A new colorimetric peptide nucleic acid-based assay for the specific detection of bacteria
4. Water-induced modulation of *Helicobacter pylori* virulence factors
5. Genome Sequence of *Serratia plymuthica* V4



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