Reducing the Urban-Rural Gap in Glaucoma Care in China

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No financial disclosure



Population Density in China

Urban and Urbanization Area of China

Inequality in Ophthalmic Care Access



Chinese Hospital Management, 2006

Socio-Economic Difference

		Urban Beijing	Rural Beijing
Annual Income (RMB)		10395	4687
Annual Medical Expenses (RMB)		589	276
Education	Illiterate/ Half illiterate	2.5%	6.4%
	Primary School	11.7%	24.1%
	Middle School	50.9%	62.4%
	College and Above	35.4%	7.1%

Beijing Eye Study 2001 Data

China Statistics Year Book 2001



Glaucoma was not diagnosed in 95% patients in rural areas

Glaucoma Induced Blindness

- Rural 9.7%
- Urban 2.1%

		Durol	Urbon	Total
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OAG	Bilateral Blindness	0/33 <mark>0</mark>	0/63 <mark>0</mark>	0/96
	Bilateral Low Vision	4/33 <mark>12.1%</mark>	0/63 0	4/96(4.2%)
	Unilateral Blindness	5/33 15.2%	2/63 3.2%	7/96(7.3%)
ACG	Bilateral Blindness	1/17 <mark>5.9%</mark>	0/22 0	1/39(2.6%)
	Bilateral Low Vision	0/17 <mark>0</mark>	2/22 9.1%	2/39(5.2%)
	Unilateral Blindness	4/17 23.5%	4/22 18.2%	8/39(20.5%)

1. Medicare System

- 2. Improving Eye Care Quality
- 3. Screening Model



UEBMI: Urban Employee Basic Medical Insurance, for urban employees URBMI: Urban Resident Basic Medical Insurance, for urban unemployed, senior and children NCMS: New Cooperative Medicare System, for rural residents

Roadmap of National Medical Insurance System

Frame of Medical Social Medicare System



3.4% not covered

*2010 data

Reimbursement Policy

	Outpatient	Inpatient
UEBMA	70-90%	85-97%
URBMA	50%	70%
NCMS	20-60%	30-90%

Glaucoma Medication Reimbursement

A: Total	Carteolol, Timolol, Clonidine, Pilocarpine, Brimonidine, Acetazolamide, Latanoprost	
B: Partial	Brinzolamide, Bimatoprost, Travoprost, Latanoprost/Timolol	
Not in the list	Bimatoprost/ Timolol	

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- 2. Improving Eye Care Quality
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Improving the Eye Care Quality

- Standardized Training to Elevate Eye-care in Rural China (China STEER)
 - Bureau of Medical Administration
 - Training the county-level doctors to improve eye care services and cataract surgery



- 1. Medicare System
- 2. Improving Eye Care Quality
- 3. Active Screening Model





Prof. Liang Xu

Beijing Eye Public Health Care Project

Liang Xu, MD, Jost B. Jonas, MD, Tong Tong Cui, MD, Qi Sheng You, MD, Ya Xing Wang, MD, Hua Yang, Jian Jun Li, MD, Wen Bin Wei, MD, Qing Feng Liang, MD, Shuang Wang, MD, Xiao Hui Yang, MD, Li Zhang, MD

Ophthalmology 2011

Background

- Primary eye care infrastructure and quality control system not been installed yet
- Rural residents had difficulties in accessing high quality eye care
- Cataract was the target of blindness prevention, however glaucoma and other diseases were ignored

- To build a cost-effective screening system for detecting visually impaired subjects
- To develop and test an infrastructure for mass screening and treatment of elderly subjects



11 counties of Greater Beijing

1st Level --Village

- 2500 high school graduates trained as technicians (1/village)
 55 yo + Visual acuity Questionnaire
- VA < 0.3 in either eye

3rd Level – Reading Center

- Beijing Institute of Ophthalmology
- 4 senior and 9 junior doctors

2nd Level—Town health care facility

- Either eye with VA < 0.3
- 44 trained technicians
- Fundus+ AS photos

4th Level –County Hospital

- Cataract in need of surgery was offered free surgery covered by government
- Glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, et al. referred to local capable hospital





A combination of fundus + AS images able to detect cataract, some corneal disease, pterygium...



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Ophthalmology in China, 2010 Ophthalmology, 2011

- Very good attempt of a multi-eye diseases screening mode
- Not only focused in cataract, also other vision-threatening disease
- Telemedicine-based screening system
- Cost effective
 - 1 million covering 500,000 residents (0.3 USD/ psn)
- Might be more cost-effective in the lower health care regions
- Glaucoma not advanced or not combined with cataract couldn't be found
- ACG







- Al aided auto-diagnosis system has been used in basic health facilities.
- Glaucoma screening more achievable and more economic
- Bridge from rural area to quality eye care service

Thank you!