

## **International Ophthalmology/Public Health**

### **E-00027**

Ocular syphilis in British Columbia

A.R. Rodriguez, J.I. Lindley, D.P. Anderson, N.K. Wade, K. Sullivan, J. Gardiner

#### **ABSTRACT (AS SUBMITTED)**

**Purpose:** To describe the occurrence and clinical manifestations of ocular syphilis in patients seen by doctors at the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, British Columbia

**Methods:** Retrospective review of charts.

**Results:** The rate of syphilis infection has been increasing substantially in the last years. In British Columbia the number of new cases reported has increased from 186 in 2002 to 333 in 2006. The clinical presentations of ocular syphilis are quite variable. In our patients the manifestations include anterior or posterior uveitis, optic disc edema, ocular motor palsy and others.

**Conclusions:** The number of new cases of syphilis is increasing. For this reason and given the protean nature of its symptoms, syphilis should always be considered in the differential diagnosis of ocular pathology.

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### E-00028

Is the evidence base for vision screening guidelines generalizable to newly arrived immigrants and refugees in Canada? A systematic review and bibliographic analysis  
A. Toren, R. Buhrmann, W.G. Hodge

#### ABSTRACT (AS SUBMITTED)

**Purpose:** The 2006 Canadian Census identified 1 in 5 Canadians as not being born in this country. From 2001 to 2006 Canada received 1.1 million immigrants and refugees with the largest numbers of this heterogeneous group coming from Asia, including the Middle East (58%); Europe (16%); Central and South America and the Caribbean (11%). Many face additional barriers to accessing health care services due to culture and language. Preventative screening is of particular importance to address disparities in health among subgroups of this population. Recommendations for the timing of vision screening and interventions are dependent on evidence to inform best practice. The purpose of this project was to examine the evidence base for current vision screening guidelines for generalizability to newly arrived immigrants and refugee populations in Canada.

**Methods:** A systematic review was performed to identify all guidelines and systematic reviews for preventative vision screening. A bibliographic review of the identified reviews and guidelines was conducted to identify the ethnic make up of the study populations of the cited studies. Studies included were randomized controlled trials, cohort or prevalence studies referenced in Canadian or American guidelines.

**Results:** Twelve systematic reviews and guidelines were identified that examined preventative vision screening in adults and children. Twelve population-based studies referenced in clinical practice guidelines met the inclusion criteria for review. None of the studies identified the inclusion of recent immigrants, refugees or non-residents. The majority of the large studies referenced in the US and Canadian clinical practice guidelines had very few subjects from non-white populations. In the minority of studies non-whites were well represented including a black population in East Baltimore. There were no significant Asian populations included in any of the reviewed studies. There were also no studies that contained new immigrants or refugees. Those studies with large numbers of non-white subjects showed substantial differences by ethnicity of the prevalence and/or attributable vision loss for glaucoma, cataract, and age-related macular degeneration.

**Conclusions:** Immigrant and refugee populations present unique challenges for preventative vision screening. Evidence for preventative screening within this population is limited, in part because the evidence base for screening lacks representation of certain ethnicities most common in new immigrants and refugees to Canada.