

Brazilian Oral Research

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Abstract

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Congenital absence or loss of the ocular globe during childhood causes psycho-social and cosmetic disorders and compromise the normal development of the orbital region. The literature relating to congenital or acquired etiology, due to trauma or disease, demonstrates the necessity of prevention and early detection in order to minimize the sequelae and disturbances in orbital growth. Installation of an eye prosthesis is essential to the rehabilitation process, so as to produce satisfactory development of the region. In order to characterize a profile of the child patient with this condition, a survey was carried out at the Prosthetic Eye sector, Out-patient Clinic, Discipline of Maxillofacial Prosthodontics, School of Dentistry, University of São Paulo (FOUSP), during the period from 1988 to 2003. The 124 (14.02%) patients within the age group of 0-13 years registered for ocular prosthesis were divided into a first group of 64 patients (51.62%) with 0-7 years, and a second group of 60 patients (48.38%) with 8-13 years. Fifty nine were girls and 65 were boys. No statistical significance was observed regarding the distribution of genders in the two analyzed age groups ($p = 0.069$). However, there was statistical significance at the level of 0.01 in relation to etiology, with higher prevalence of congenital and pathological disturbances in the younger group and traumatic occurrences in the older group. The etiology also presented variation according to the gender, at the significance level of 0.05, where girls presented three times less trauma than boys in the older age group. The necessity of prosthetic ocular repair was evenly distributed along the childhood period and the eye losses that required prosthetic treatment equally affected both genders. However, the etiology of eye loss varied according to the considered gender and age bracket.

Keywords : Ocular prosthesis; Anophthalmos; Eye; Eye injuries; Pediatrics.

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Sociedade Brasileira de Pesquisa Odontológica

Av. Lineu Prestes, 2227
Caixa Postal 8216
05508-900 São Paulo SP - Brazil
Tel./Fax: +55 11 3091-7810



bor@sbpgo.org.br