



M3 GLOBAL RESEARCH REVIEW

CATARACT

ON THE RISE

Each month, the American Academy of Ophthalmology promotes efforts to raise awareness about important eye health topics. **June is National Cataract Awareness Month.**

According to the National Eye Institute (NEI, a division of the NHI), the number of Americans having cataracts is expected to increase to 38 million by the year 2030 from the 24 million in 2010. This represents more than 15% of the US population over the age of 40. People who smoke or have diabetes have higher prevalence of cataracts than those who do not.

WHAT ARE CATARACTS?

Cataracts arise when the intraocular lens (IOL) in the eye becomes cloudy as proteins clump together and blurry vision becomes noticeable. The IOL works to focus light onto the retina at the back of the eye, and changes shape to adjust the eye's focus for objects located near and far. The visual impairment is a progressive condition, and generally affects older people more than the young. Non-surgical options often tried before undergoing surgery include eyeglasses, brighter lighting, sunglasses.

TREATMENT

Surgery is a common treatment, performed as an outpatient procedure for most patients. There are approximately 2 million cataract surgeries in the US each year. Surgery rates for cataracts are the highest in North America, Western Europe, India, and Australia. The WHO estimates that cataracts are the leading cause of blindness in over 116 countries, and surgery is not a widely available option in many less developed countries.

Cataract "surgeries" have been recorded in antiquities, and generally thought to be attempts to move the lens to the bottom of the eye allow light to pass. The first modern lens extraction occurred in the mid- 1700's, but IOL replacement didn't gain traction until some 200 years later with the development of an implantable lens. The first successful IOL implant surgery followed in the early 1950's. IOL replacement didn't become popular until after the first FDA-approved lens device in 1981 – and is now the most common eye surgery procedure. The surgical techniques developed for patients with cataracts essentially pioneered the field of ophthalmologic surgery.

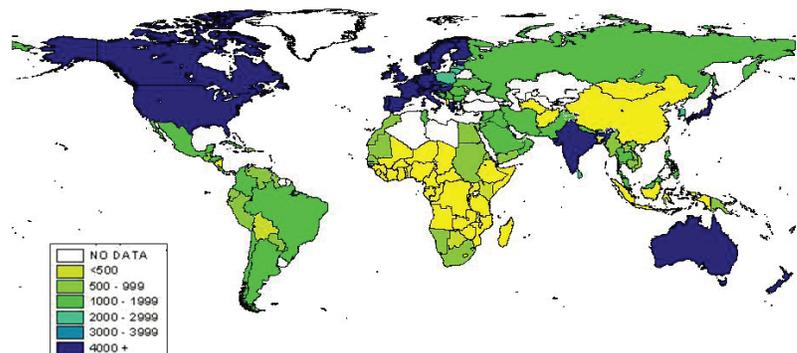
THE COMPLETE OPHTHALMOLOGIST

M3 is active in recruiting for our client's studies in the ophthalmology disease area. In 2016, we recruited over **13,000 respondents across 35 countries, for almost 100 studies and >50 clients.** Most (68) were online quantitative surveys, 17 were qualitative only projects, and 11 included both study type activities.

M3 also provides several syndicated services in this sector. **The Complete Ophthalmologist** is a syndicated study examining the challenges faced by specialists in their daily practice.

Physician Map is a KOL mapping service offered in specific disease areas. **Patient Map** is a 5,000 respondent syndicated service that examines patient loads across 400 diseases, including cataracts. **Patient Map** is also offered in Japan and the UK countries.

Global Cataract Surgical Rates 2004



World Health Organization

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