

NCC 'FUTURE GENERATION 2024' PAPER Abstracts  
SCIENTIFIC SESSION IN COOPERATION WITH THE BCLA

**NCC 'Future generation 2024'**

**Organization Section: NCC/ BCLA**

**PAPER Abstracts**

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NH De Koningshof, Baroniezaal

**Consideration of factors for parents in the Netherlands in deciding to proceed to myopia management for their child**

*Henri Eek, Mirjam van Tilborg*

**Purpose:** High myopia incurs a risk for developing uncorrectable vision loss at older age. An early onset of myopia imparts a relatively high risk for developing high myopia. Therefore starting with myopia management at an early age is essential. This implies that parents of myopic children play an important role, but little is known about factors they consider before deciding to proceed to myopia management for their child. An important aim of this study was to identify the (relative) importance of these parent-related factors.

**Method:** An online, quantitative, study of parents of primary school children in the municipality Zwolle was conducted. Parents from 26 schools were, as part of a 17-question survey, asked to score 16 factors on a Likert scale from 0 to 4 (0 very-unimportant, 4 very-important). Factors were related to health care providers' attitudes but also to safety, efficacy and cosmetic aspects of treatment methods. For analysis descriptive statistics were used.

**Results:** A total of 135 respondents completed the survey, the average score was 2.95. 'Safety of treatment' and 'good/clear explanation by the health care provider' received the highest scores (3.56 and 3.52, respectively), 'number of control visits per year' received the lowest score (2.27). 'Safety of the treatment', 'good/clear explanation by the health

care provider' and '(wearing) comfort for the child' were most often indicated 'very important' (64.4%, 57.8% and 51.9%, respectively). Some difference was found in the rating of the factors between older and younger parents ( $P < 0.005$  for 7 aspects).

**Conclusions:** Parents scored health care provider related factors (e.g. reliability, friendly attitude) relatively high compared to other factors. This implies an evident role for health care providers.

Interprofessional communication, sharing of knowledge and willingness to cooperate will be keywords for applying the best possible management options to current and future myopic children in the Netherlands and perhaps beyond.

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