

Barrier to utilization of cataract surgical services
and ratio of eyes with cataract to patients
presenting for cataract surgery at Mulago
National Referral Hospital



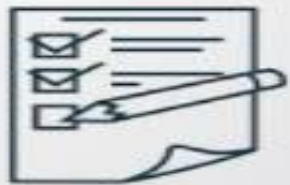
Authors

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Background



- Cataract leads in causing preventable blindness in Africa
- Cataract blindness is treatable by surgery
- Costs hinder patients from utilizing cataract surgery
- Difficulties in mobilizing logistics and supplies for cataract surgery
- Among them is estimating ratio of the expected number of cataracts to patients

Purpose

- We determined the proportion of cataract patients who encountered cost as a barrier to utilization of cataract surgery and the ratio of eyes with cataract to patients presenting for cataract surgery at Mulago National Referral Hospital (MNRH)

Methods

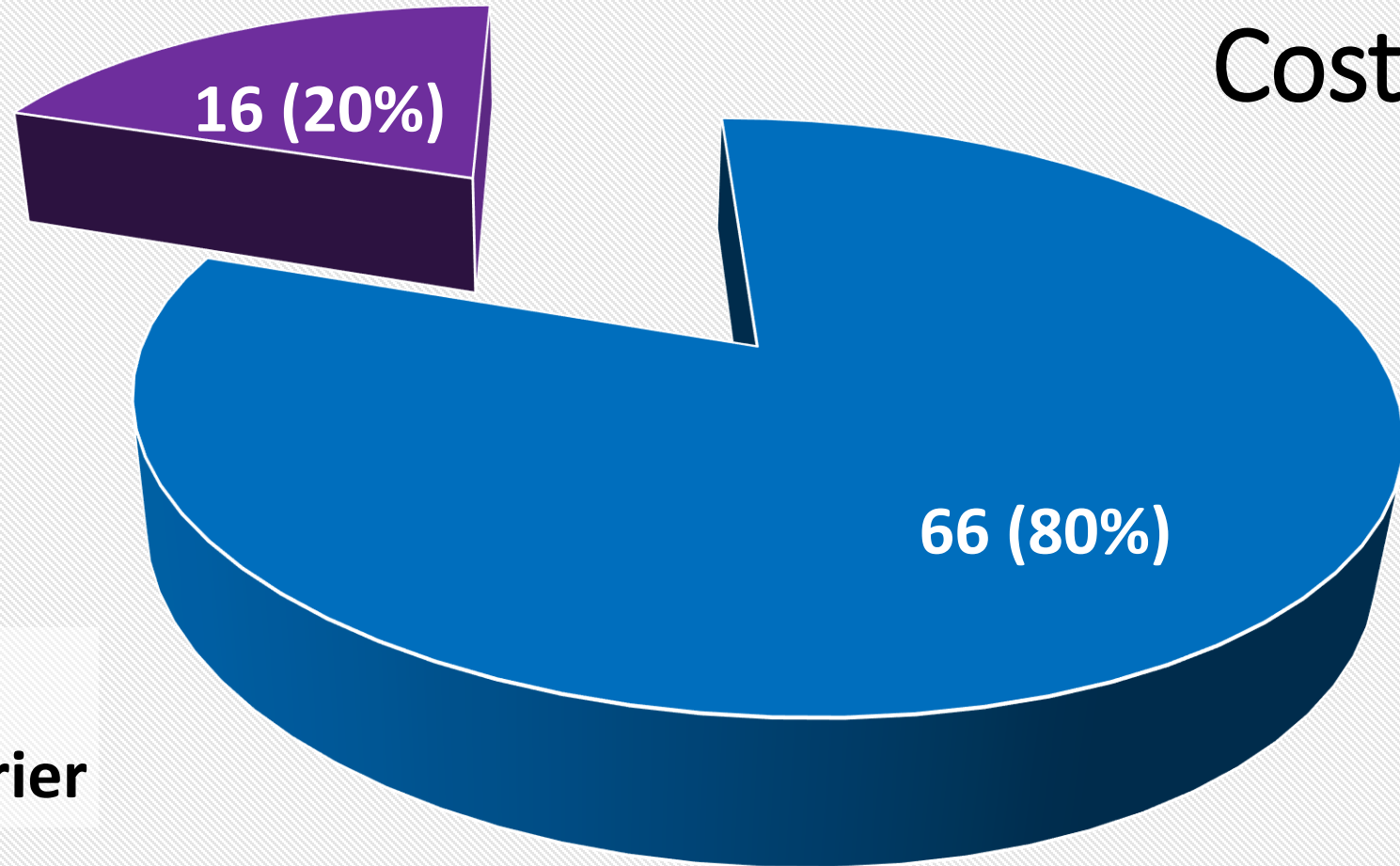
- Used hospital based cross-sectional study
- Adult patients with cataract induced moderate visual impairment or blindness were recruited and consented
- Assessed barriers to prior utilization of cataract surgery
- Clinically evaluated them for unilateral or bilateral cataracts
- Data was analyzed using stata version 14.2

Results: participants characteristics (n=82)

Characteristic	Frequency (%)
Gender	
Female	44 (54%)
Male	38 (46%)
Age	
Average age	67 years
Greater 50 years	53(65%)

Results-2: Experienced cost as barrier to cataract surgery earlier

**n = 82
patients**



- Barrier
- Not barrier

Results-3: Ratio of eyes with cataract to expected number of patients

n=82	Patient n (%)	Cataract n(%)
Bilateral cataract	55 (67)	110 (80)
Unilateral cataract	27 (33)	27 (20)
Total	82 (100)	137 (100)

Cataracts : Patients = 137/82

1.7 cataracts : 1 patient

Results-4: Interpretation of the results

- **8 of every 10 patients with cataract are influenced by costs in utilizing the available cataract surgical services**
- **For every 100 patients with operable cataracts, plan and mobilize logistics for 170 cataract surgeries**

Conclusions

- **Cost is barrier to utilization of the available cataract surgical services in 8 of every 10 patients with cataracts**
- **There were 1.7 eyes with cataract to every patient presenting for cataract surgical services**

Recommendations

- **Cataract surgical outreach to the remote areas**
- **Introduce vouchers for utilization of cataract surgical services**
- **Plan logistics and supplies for 1.7 cataract surgeries per patient with operable cataract**
- **Evaluate socio-economic impact of unoperated cataracts in Uganda**

Thank you