Strabismus-related prejudice in 5-6 year-old children

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- Individuals with conspicuous strabismus are perceived more negatively
- Lead to social alienation and negative psychosocial development

Aim

 Explore young children's perception of peers with noticeable exotropia

Subjects

- 128 children attending kindergartens
- 43 5-year-old, 85 6-year-old
- M=64, F=64
- Interview in classroom



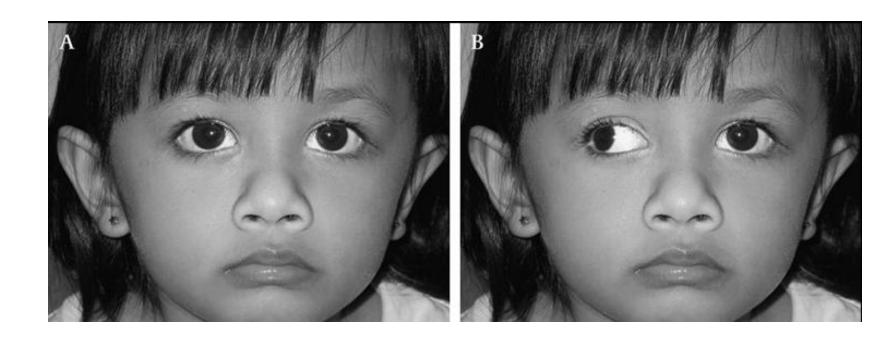
Procedures

- Pick a toy
- Which picture do you like better?'
- Point to the one you like better'
- Which person would you share your toy with?'

Pictures

- Digitally created
- 4 pairs of images
- Extropia more common than esotropia

Pictures



Results

Table 1 Distribution of participants according to age and gender

| Age (years) | Gender | |
|-------------|--------|--------|
| | Male | Female |
| 5 | 25 | 20 |
| 6 | 39 | 44 |

Results

 2 omitted: a girl refused to choose a face and would give the toys to both; a boy would not give a toy to any

Results

Table 2 Distribution of choices in percentage

| Task | Orthotropic faces (95% CL) | Exotropic faces (95% CL) |
|-------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Facial preference | 62.7 (58.4 to 67.0) | 37.3 (33.0 to 41.6) |
| Toy sharing | 60.9 (56.5 to 65.3) | 39.1 (34.7 to 43.5) |
| Total | 61.8 (58.7 to 64.9) | 38.2 (35.1 to 41.3) |

95% CL, 95% confidence limits.



- Young children show negative attitudes towards strabismus
- Linked with negative social interactions
- Toy-sharing: a form of social alienation
- Negative psychosocial development
- Early intervention to correct ocular misalignment