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Omodele Jagun^{*}, Olubukola Faturoti and Ogechukwu Taiwo

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^{*}**Corresponding author:** Omodele Jagun, Department of Ophthalmology, Babcock University, Ilishan, Ogun, Nigeria, Tel: +234-8023184198; E-mail: omodelly@yahoo.com

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Abstract

Aim: To determine the magnitude of traditional eye medicine practitioners and the eye conditions they treat in a local community and proffer a form of continuous education to improve on their practices.

Study Design

None of the respondents had any formal training on the basic anatomy or physiology of the eye as 75% of those that indicated treating eye conditions said they learnt it from their “masters” and 50% of them already had trainees they are teaching similar practices whether right or wrong. As expected, the respondents made no specific diagnosis before treatment and could only indicate treating red eyes, discharging eye, cataract and poor vision. All the respondents indicated having encountered treatment complications which necessitated referrals of the client to the nearest general hospital for further management. Previous studies have documented high incidence of complications from TEM [9,10]. The National blindness survey also documented that TEM was implicated in 26.7% of the non trachomatous cornea scarring in Nigeria [8], it was also noted that Couching by TH accounted for 46.1% of all the cataract surgeries documented during the survey and this was associated with very poor vision [8].

Traditional healing practices is said to reflect the cultural beliefs of a society [11], and it would therefore require effective communication between the orthodox health care professional and the community to bring about a positive change of attitude towards TH [12] due to language barrier, difference in level of education and different priorities in 1

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