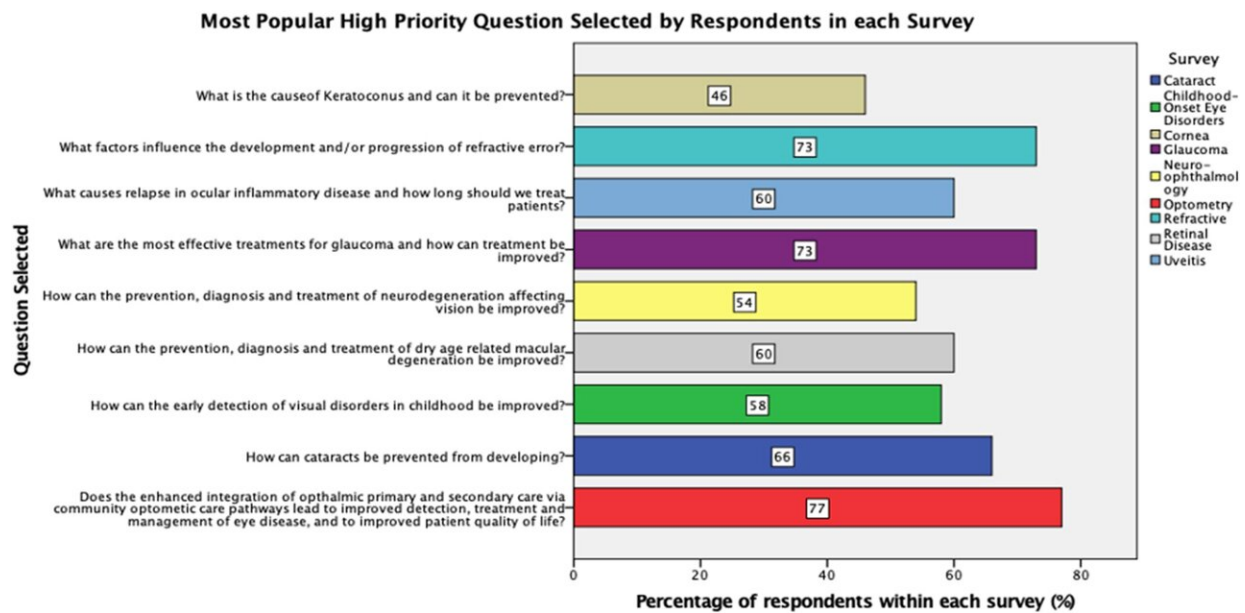


New study maps priorities for UK eye care research

May 29 2024



Most popular high priority question selected by respondents in each survey. Credit: *Eye* (2024). DOI: 10.1038/s41433-024-03049-6

Prevention of conditions such as cataracts and glaucoma, as well as better integration of primary and secondary care, have been identified by a new study as priorities for UK eye care research for the next five years.

A new study [published](#) in the journal *Eye* surveyed 2,240 health care

professionals, patients, caregivers, researchers and charity support workers to map out the research priorities for ophthalmology in the UK.

Carried out by the UK Clinical Eye Research Strategy (CERS), a group of leading researchers in the field led by Rupert Bourne, Professor of Ophthalmology at Anglia Ruskin University (ARU), the study is a comprehensive update to the previous James Lind Alliance (JLA) Sight and Vision Loss Priority Setting Partnership (SVLPSP)'s research priorities for ophthalmology, carried out in 2013.

Ophthalmology is one of the leading areas for novel treatments and in the past few decades we have seen the introduction of novel diagnostic and treatment modalities that have markedly improved outcomes in people with eye diseases.

Despite active research within ophthalmology, there are still unanswered questions about prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of eye conditions and sight loss, half of which is presumed avoidable- although the UK lacks nationally-representative population based prevalence data.

The study summarizes that several areas of eye care should be prioritized for research in order to advance treatment and prevention in the UK.

These include:

- A focus on [prevention strategies](#) for cataract;
- Advancements in microbial keratitis treatment of the cornea;
- Enhanced integration of ophthalmic primary and secondary care;
- Development and/or progression research for refractive error;
- Early detection initiatives for childhood eye care diseases;
- Glaucoma: Improved treatment modalities for glaucoma;
- Neuro-ophthalmology: Holistic approach to prevention, diagnosis, and [treatment](#);
- Innovative strategies for dry age-related macular degeneration;

- Exploration of new treatments for inflammatory diseases such as uveitis.

Lead author Rupert Bourne, professor of ophthalmology, said, "The results of this survey provide a crucial refresh of the most important research questions, a decade after the initial Priority Setting Partnership. This study sets the stage for focused research endeavors within [ophthalmology](#), a specialty that faces substantial challenges but which remains vastly underfunded given the profound burden of eye diseases."

More information: Rupert R. A. Bourne et al, The UK clinical eye research strategy: refreshing research priorities for clinical eye research in the UK, *Eye* (2024). [DOI: 10.1038/s41433-024-03049-6](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41433-024-03049-6)

Provided by Anglia Ruskin University

Citation: New study maps priorities for UK eye care research (2024, May 29) retrieved 24 June 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2024-05-priorities-uk-eye.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.