

Table 1 Causes of blindness in Pakistan obtained from two population-based surveys

Main cause of blindness	National blindness survey 1988-89		National blindness survey 2002-04		Odds ratio (95% CI)
	No.	%	No.	%	
Cataract	342	66.7	289	51.5	1.83 (1.42-2.36)
Corneal opacity	66	12.6	66	11.8	1.10 (0.75-1.60)
Uncorrected refractive errors ^a	60	11.4	15	2.7	0.97 (0.70-1.35)
Uncorrected aphakia	NSR	NSR	48	8.6	
Glaucoma	21	3.9	40	7.1	0.55 (0.31-0.98)
Macular degeneration	NSR	NSR	12	2.1	-
Diabetic retinopathy	NSR	NSR	1	0.2	-
Others	29	5.4	90	16.0	-
Blindness sample total	518 ^b	100.0	561 ^c	100.0	-
Survey sample total	29 157		16 507		

^aIncludes uncorrected aphakia.

^bThis gives a prevalence of blindness of 1.78%.

^cThis gives a prevalence of blindness of 3.4%. However, when adjusted for all ages, the prevalence is 0.9%.

CI = confidence interval; NSR = not separately reported.