

Why patients fail pre-operative cataract surgery assessment

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ABSTRACT

Objective: To report the incidence and identify causes of postponement during pre-operative cataract surgery assessment in Hospital Selayang. **Method:** This is a retrospective study, which examined the number of visits to Eye Clinic, Hospital Selayang for pre-operative cataract surgery assessment every Thursday from November 2016 to October 2017. We analysed the total amount of patients, the number of defaulters and reasons for failing pre-operative assessments resulting in multiple visits to the clinic. **Results:** A total of 811 appointments were scheduled for pre-operative cataract surgery assessment during the analysed period. There were 146 defaulters (22.9%), 410 who passed the pre-operative assessment (50.5%) and 255 who failed and required more than 1 visit for further investigations (39.4%). The main reasons for patients failing pre-operative assessment were uncontrolled hypertension (35.8%), cardiac diseases (26.0%), lid infections (16.7%) and uncontrolled diabetes mellitus (13.9%). There were 17 cases where patients had overlapping causes for postponement. **Conclusion:** Nearly a third of cases listed for cataract surgery fail their pre-operative assessment. Apart from defaulters, uncontrolled medical conditions account for the majority of postponement of cataract cases. This highlights the importance of pre-operative assessment in elective surgery among the Malaysian population.

KEY WORDS:

Pre-operative cataract surgery assessment, causes of postponement