OP10 PREVALENCE OF DEFECTIVE COLOUR VISION AMONG MEDICAL STUDENTS IN FACULTY OF MEDICINE, COLOMBO

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Introduction
Though it is not given any significance due to its scarce prevalence in the population, defective colour vision affects an individual, in that he perceives the world in a different spectrum of view. Observations are a fundamental element in medicine in which colour and its changes play a major role for further proceedings.

Objectives
To determine the prevalence of defective colour vision and its reported effects in life of medical students in the Faculty of Medicine, Colombo

Design, setting and methods
608 medical students in the Faculty of Medicine, Colombo were screened for colour blindness using Ishihara pseudoisochromatic charts (17 plates). Individuals found to be colour blind were given a self administered questionnaire and subjected for further examinations with Fransworth Munsell 100 Hue test, refraction errors and fundoscopy at the Eye Hospital, Colombo.

Results
The prevalence of colour blindness among medical students in Faculty of Medicine, Colombo was 1.89% (n=11) with a male predominance (3.67%, n=11) and 0% in females. Deutan (55.55%, n= 6) type was the commonest type of colour deficiency. X linked congenital colour vision deficiency was found to be the probable aetiology. 45% – 54% of the colour blind individuals have experienced difficulties in day today, academic and clinical work due to defective colour vision. Among which identification of bacilli in Ziehl Neelson stain, end point of titer and different cannuli according to colour were reported. Majority has neglected their defective colour vision without seeking medical advice. 27% of the colour blind individuals use the opinion of another individual who is not colour blind, as a method to overcome their defect in colour vision

Conclusion and Recommendations
Prevalence of defective colour vision in Faculty of Medicine, Colombo is 1.89% with a male predominance (3.67%). Probable aetiological factor is X linked recessive inheritance of congenital colour vision deficiency. Majority has neglected their defective colour vision. Self-awareness of defective colour vision will help them in choosing a field of specialization in the future, which has minimal requirement of proper colour vision.