Economic evaluation of cataract surgery: a comparison between IOL and non-IOL techniques
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Record Status
This is a critical abstract of an economic evaluation that meets the criteria for inclusion on NHS EED. Each abstract contains a brief summary of the methods, the results and conclusions followed by a detailed critical assessment on the reliability of the study and the conclusions drawn.

Health technology
Surgical removal of cataract and insertion of an intraocular lens (IOL).

Type of intervention
Treatment.

Economic study type
Cost-effectiveness analysis.

Setting
The study was carried out in Finland.

Dates to which data relate
Price related to 1986.

Source of effectiveness data
Single study.

Direct costs
Direct costs were to the health service and patient were included: pre-operative visit, operation, hospital stay, polyclinic, complications, travel, sick leave, home health care following operation, spectacles and contact lenses, lens cleaning, post-operative consultations, and private fees. Price information related to 1986.

Currency
Finnish Marks (FIM).

Sensitivity analysis
No sensitivity analysis was carried out.

Estimated benefits used in the economic analysis
From the literature, the authors assumed that IOL surgery presents optical advantages.

Cost results
Inclusion of production gains and use of nursing homes, indicates that both interventions are cost saving, but that IOL is still superior. Cost duration was 10 years.

CRD Commentary
(This commentary was not written by CRD, but by the authors of the DH Register).

Both interventions could be considered as (socially) cost-saving with evidence of positive quality of life (QoL) benefits.

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