

LETTERS

CORRECTING REFRACTIVE ERROR

More than meets the eye in correcting refractive error in low income countries

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Self correction of refractive error with adjustable spectacles is a diagnostic and treatment solution that could overcome the large unmet need for correcting refractive error, which is mostly caused by the lack of available trained refractionists and of suitable, available, and affordable spectacles for those in need.¹

Acceptance of spectacle wear is often poor, even when spectacles are provided free of charge and greatly improve vision. Reasons include cosmesis, fear of teasing by peers, the notion that spectacles identify people as having a disability, and the belief that vision worsens with continued spectacle wear.^{2 3} To improve long term adherence, these innovative spectacles need to be made fashionably and sociably acceptable. A variety of frame designs and colours, together with local celebrities or

respected figures using them in public, are likely to increase uptake and adherence.

Competing interests: None declared.

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