

Eye Lash Extension use among Female Students in Kaduna Polytechnic, kaduna.

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Introduction: Eyelash extension involves the attachment of synthetic eye lashes made of chemical fibres or other materials individually onto natural lashes using glue<sup>[1]</sup>. They have become common practice for enhancing beauty among women on occasions such as weddings, festivities and other social gathering including funerals<sup>[2]</sup>. The use of eyelash extension may cause interference with the normal functions of the eye lid<sup>[3,4,5,6,7,8,9]</sup> and ocular complications such as blepharitis and keratoconjunctivitis<sup>[6,7]</sup>. This study was carried out to assess eyelash extension use among students of a higher institution, the reasons for its use and related eye complications.

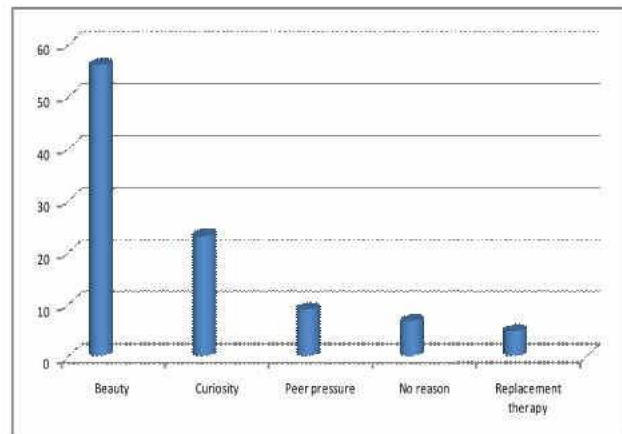


Fig. 1: Reasons for Eyelash Extension Use

Methods: A cross sectional descriptive study with stratified sampling technique was employed for the study.

Results: Respondents were 310 out of 344 sampled whose ages ranged between 16 and 52 years with a mean of 23.0years + 4.8. The prevalence of eye lash extension use was 38.7%. Reasons given for eye lash extension use include beauty , curiosity and peer pressure (Figure 1). Ocular symptoms experienced by the respondents include itching, redness and pain (Figure 2)

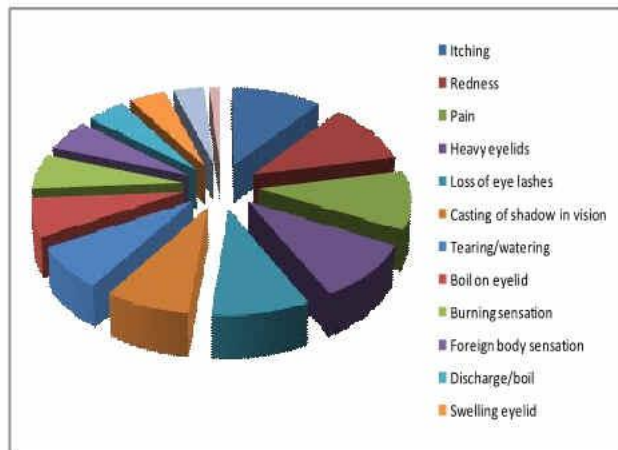


Fig. 2: Symptoms experienced by the users

Discussion: The prevalence of eyelash extension use among the responders was 38.7%. This is much higher than what was found in a National survey on eyelash extensions in Japan which was 10.3%<sup>[1]</sup>. It is likely to be due to the age group targeted in our study. Beauty was the commonest reason for eyelash extension in this study (56.1%). In Ghana beauty was also the commonest reason but the percentage was much higher (81.6%)<sup>[2]</sup>. Majority of those studied in Ghana (80%) experienced one or more ocular symptoms<sup>[2]</sup>. In this study most of the symptoms were due to complications such as blepharitis and keratoconjunctivitis. The frequency in their study was similar to ours (73.3%).

Limitations: Limited number of studies available for comparison.

Conclusion: Eyelash extension use is popular among young female students of a higher institution in Kaduna and majority of them experience one ocular symptom or the other as a result of complications such as blepharitis and keratoconjunctivitis.

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