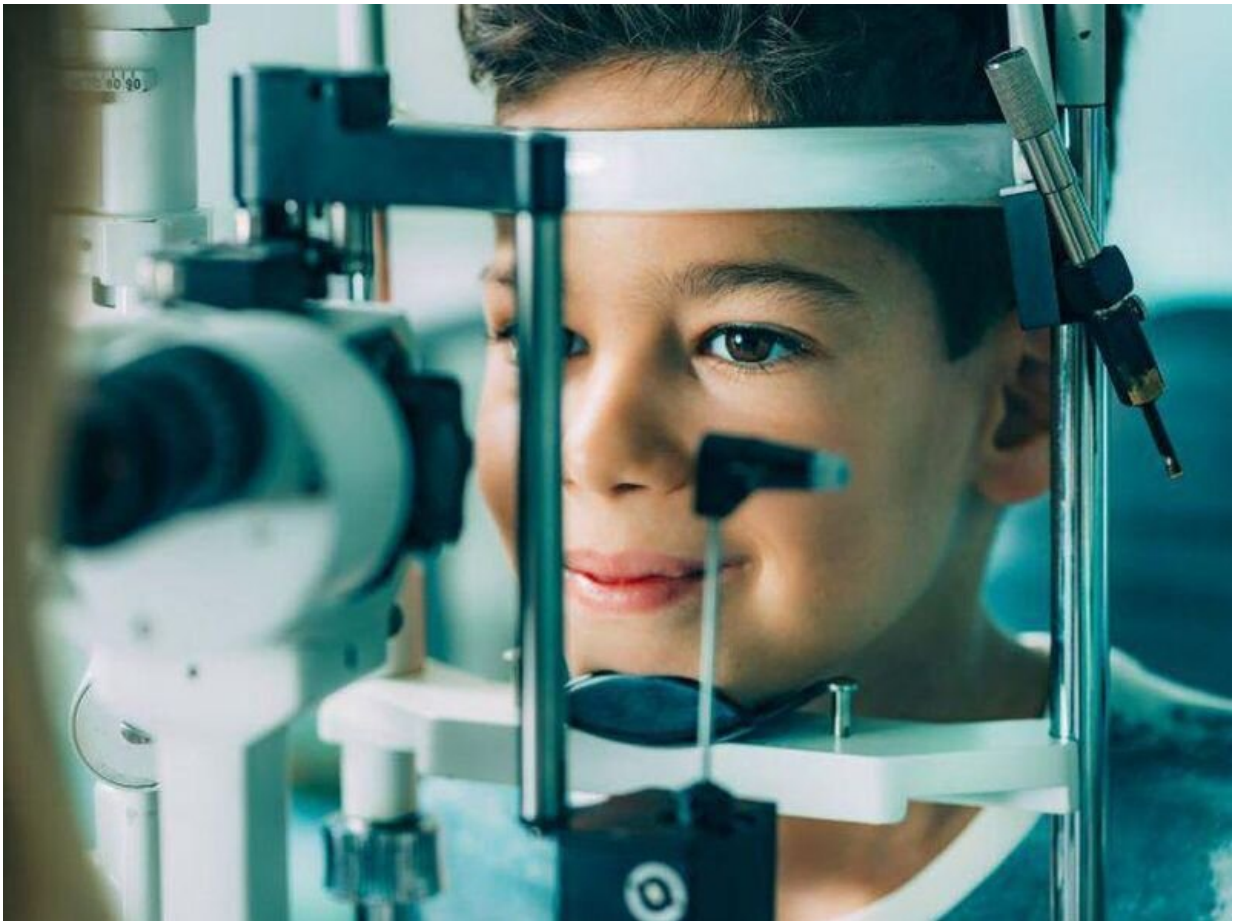


Myopia progressed faster in children under COVID-19 lockdowns

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(HealthDay)—Myopia progressed more rapidly in schoolchildren

exposed to more COVID-19-related lockdown measures, according to a study published online Jan. 14 in *JAMA Network Open*.

Kai Yip Choi, Ph.D., from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and colleagues examined the associations of COVID-19-related lockdown measures and optical defocus treatment with [myopia](#) progression in schoolchildren. The [analysis](#) included 115 children who wore either a defocus incorporated multiple segments (DIMS; 58 children) lens for 18 months or a single vision lens (SVL; 56 [children](#)) for 24 months.

The researchers found that DIMS treatment was significantly associated with 34 percent less axial elongation and 46 percent less myopic progression after 12 months versus SVL treatment. Across both groups, more lockdown time was associated with significantly more spherical equivalent refraction and axial length versus less [lockdown](#) time.

"These findings suggest that an optical defocus treatment may be associated with slower myopia progression, which has been exaggerated during the COVID-19 pandemic, among schoolchildren," the authors write.

One author received a patent for a DIMS lens with royalties paid from Hoya Corporation.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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