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Diabetic eye screening: only diabetic retinopathy?

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Background & Aim: Diabetic retinopathy (RD) is the leading cause of blindness in developed countries. Diabetes(DM) also increases the risk of cataracts and glaucoma. The aim of this study was to estimate the prevalence of eye diseases in diabetic patients detected by a primary care screening.

Method: N=398 diabetic patients by appointment on the agenda of diabetic eye screening (CROC) for ocular fundus examination with non-mydratic fundus camera,

A nurse practitioner performs the following techniques: visual acuity test(AV) by projection optotypes. Corrected visual acuity (CAV) with a pinhole occluder. Intraocular pressure(PIO) is measured with a Non-contact tonometry (or air-puff tonometry) and finally eye fundus pictures are taken with a non-mydratic retinal camera. The digital photographs are interpreted by trained readers family practitioners.

Design: A descriptive observacional study

Variables: age, gender ,RD,PIO, visual acuity reduced(VAR) AV <0,6. Refractive errors CAV>=0,6. Ocular hypertension (glaucoma suspect) PIO >or =22mmHg.

Results: Excluded N= 26 patients. Exclusion criteria: RD diagnosed previously(6), exitus(2), no attend the appointment.(15) or absence of collaboration by underlying diseases(3).

Reviewed N= 372 Diabetic patients attended (93,46%) age average: 60.5 years. Age range (27-97). 50,8% women. Ocular hipertensión unknown: 46 patients (12,3%). RD: 40 patients(10,75%). VAR in 88 patients (23,6%). Refractive errors: 42patients (11,2%). Without corrected visual acuity: 46 patients(12,3%). 16 patients impossibility to read fundus eyes because opacity of the transparent means of the eyes

Conclusions: The prevalence of diabetic retinopathy using the non-mydratic fundus camera was 10,75%. Because of the opacity of the transparent means was not possible to evaluate fundus of the eye in 4,3 % of cases. Ocular hipertensión unknown in the 12,3% of the patients. Refractive errors: 11,2%. Abnormality visual without CAV; 12,3%. Screening for Primary Care suppose an important form to detect eye diseases in diabetic patients.