

# Deciding factors for patients to seek glaucoma specialist care

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## Abstract

**Aims:** To determine what are the factors which influence glaucoma patients to prefer specialized glaucoma clinic.

**Study Design:** Observational cross-sectional study.

**Methods:** A total of 400 patients were included in this study for a period of three months from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. To avoid bias, patients were interviewed by a person who was not directly involved in their management. A short interview about the reasons why patients prefer glaucoma clinic was conducted and they were allowed to make a choice from the given options. A second choice was given only if the patient can't decide between two options. At the end they were asked about their satisfaction level from the quality of care they received.

**Results:** Of total 400 patients, 258 (64.5%) were males and 142 (35.5%) were females. When analyzed for the reasons of preferring the clinic, 145 (36.3%) opted for the option of free medicine availability followed by referral by other ophthalmologists in 125 (31.3%) cases. Among the remaining, 85 (21.3%) were self-referred, 34 (8.5%) preferred because of the competent glaucoma specialist and 05 (1.3%) cases opted better hospital staff. The satisfaction level of the patients was recorded as 330 (82.5%) were satisfied with the care they were receiving while 36 (09%) were not satisfied and 34 (8.5%) had no comments.

**Conclusion:** Economic status and proper in-time referral by other ophthalmologist are the main deciding factors in glaucoma management. *Al-Shifa Journal of Ophthalmology* 2016; 12(2): 67-72. © Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital, Rawalpindi, Pakistan.