

ABSTRACT

Awareness of diabetic retinopathy among the known diabetic patients at a tertiary care eye hospital

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ABSTRACT

Objectives: To assess the awareness of diabetic retinopathy (DR) among the known diabetics at Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital (ASTEH) Rawalpindi.

Study Design: A cross sectional observational study.

Subjects and Methods: Study was conducted on 200 known diabetics from 1st April 2007 to 30th September 2007. Level of knowledge about DR was assessed on the basis of a face-to-face interview and graded according to the number of correct responses. All the information was recorded on proformas and data analysis was done using SPSS 13.0.

Results: There were 85 (42.5%) male and 115 (57.5%) female participants with a mean age of 56.0 (\pm 9.740) years while mean duration of diabetes was 8.468 (\pm 6.034) years. Knowledge of 72 (36%) patients was found satisfactory. Gender ($p=0.000$), socioeconomic status ($p=0.000$), education ($p=0.001$) and source of information ($p=0.000$) were significantly associated with awareness. Ophthalmologists were the major source of information for the patients.

Conclusion: Awareness about DR is low in our diabetic patients. More emphasis should be given to health education of diabetics along with treatment. *Al-Shifa Journal of Ophthalmology* 2011; 7(1):25-31 © Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital, Rawalpindi, Pakistan.
