

Diabetic eye screening in a Nigerian community

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This study aimed at determining the uptake of diabetic eye screening. The barriers to uptake of diabetic eye screening were also identified. It is a cross-sectional descriptive study which was conducted over a year period between October, 2011 and October, 2012 at Federal Medical, Centre, Owo, Ondo State, Nigeria among diabetics. The respondents were interviewed with the aid of the study instrument (semi-structured questionnaire).

The information obtained included the bio-data of the respondents, history of ocular problems, previous ocular examination and perceived barriers to uptake of diabetic eye screening. The data obtained with the aid of the study instrument (questionnaire) was collated and analyzed with statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) 15.0.1 software version. One hundred respondents were enrolled in the study. Most respondents; 63 had previous diabetic eye screening while 37 did not have diabetic eye screening. Majority of the respondents; 30 were informed about the importance of diabetic eye screening by health workers. The major barriers to diabetic eye screening were lack of awareness; 49 (62.8%) and the fact that some respondents did not see the need; 18 (23.1%). Most respondents had diabetic eye screening. About a third of the respondents were referred by their Physicians. The major barriers to diabetic eye screening were lack of awareness and the fact that some respondents did not see the need. Collaboration between Physicians and Ophthalmologists is desirable.

Biography

Charles Oluwole Omolase is a forty two year old Nigerian Ophthalmologist. He obtained Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degree (MBBS) from University of Ilorin in June, 1995. He did his housemanship at Military Hospital Yaba, Lagos between 1995 and 1996. He did his residency training at University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital between 1999 and 2005. He is a Fellow of National and West Africa Post Graduate Colleges. He has eighty two papers published in local and international journals. He is a reviewer of more than ten local and international journals. He is the Head of Ophthalmology, Federal Medical Centre, Owo.

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