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The clinical outcome of the referred cases (other than diabetic retinopathy) from the diabetic retinopathy screening program in GOPC setting

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Introduction

The RAMP program for chronic disease patients commenced in Kowloon West Cluster in 2009. It offers multidisciplinary approach to chronic disease management, e.g. diabetics. Optometrists play an important role in screening and diagnosing for any eye complications for the diabetic patients. The slit lamp biomicroscopy and dilated fundus photography together offered an excellent and efficient way to assess the presence and severity of the diabetic retinopathy (DR). Moreover, through the one minute photo capture, ocular diseases other than DR could also be screened. For example, macula disease, glaucoma suspect and other major retinal blood vessel diseases. Those with other suspected eye diseases will be referred for further investigation and management.

Objectives

To evaluate the clinical outcome of the referred case (other than DR) from the DR screening program in GOPC to the ophthalmology department.

Methodology

In this study, we reviewed the cases completed in the Ha Kwai Chung GOPC from Nov 2011 to July 2012 (9 months duration). Only cases which were referred to the ophthalmology department with the reason other than DR were reviewed.

Result

In Nov 2011 - Jul 2012 (9 months duration) in HKC GOPC, there were 3916 cases done with 376 (9.6%) total referred case to ophthalmology department. Among the 376 referred case, 83 (22.1%) referred for eye diseases other than DR, DM Maculopathy and ungradable photo. From the result, more than 55% of the referred cases further confirm the diagnosis or being suspicious of those eye diseases. The pickup rate is high considering that 28% of cases were defaulted after referral to eye specialist. Only 10% of the cases were found absence of the disease. Conclusion: Optometrists are capable of detecting and diagnosing major ocular diseases through the fundus photo. Patients having regular check up for DR screening would be beneficial in terms of controlling the DR condition as well as screening for some major ocular diseases.