

THE EPIDEMIOLOGY AND ECONOMIC EVALUATION OF DIABETIC RETINOPATHY AMONG TYPE 2 DIABETICS

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Epidemiologic and clinical studies have shown that diabetic retinopathy is the most common and serious complication among type 2 diabetics. In Taiwan, the previous community-based study showed that the prevalence and annual incidence of diabetic retinopathy estimated are 15% to 45% and 4.8%, respectively. From the viewpoints of epidemiology and preventive medicine, the most important topic of preventing diabetic retinopathy is how to achieve early detection and early treatment, through effective screening tools. Besides, to understand the morbidity rate of diabetic retinopathy, we must take into consideration the progression of natural history of diabetic retinopathy in order to be ahead of preventing occurrence of diabetic retinopathy. In order to reach early prevention of diabetic retinopathy for individual patients, one must probe through the relevant risk factors the occurrence of diabetic retinopathy and its transitional influence, to achieve personal prevention. This article is discussed on the epidemiology and economic evaluation of diabetic retinopathy among type 2 diabetics. We hope that this literatures review could provide more information to establish screening strategies and health management programs for the popular diabetic subjects.

Key Words: diabetic retinopathy, epidemiology, economic evaluation, type 2 diabetes

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