

POPULATION-BASED STUDY OF DIABETIC RETINOPATHY AMONG SELF REPORTED DIABETICS IN MATSU

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Purpose: To investigate the prevalence and associated risk factors of diabetic retinopathy among self reported diabetics in Matsu area

Methods: A community-based eye survey for the residents aged 30 or older was performed during July 28 to August 7, 2003. Diabetic retinopathy was assessed by a panel of study ophthalmologists using both indirect ophthalmoscopy and digital fundus retinal photographs.

Results: Among 1,496 eligible participants (774 females and 722 males, mean age 50.8 years), 140 subjects (9.4%) were with self reported history of diabetes. Among those diabetics, 39 cases (27.9%) were non-proliferative diabetic retinopathy and 28 (20.0%) were proliferative

diabetic retinopathy. We found self reported diabetic duration over 10 years or unknown (OR 47.1, 95%CI: 13.4-165.8) and rural residents in Chukuang/Tungyin (OR 3.93, 95%CI: 1.41-10.87) were independent risk factors for diabetic retinopathy in the multivariate analysis.

Conclusions: There were no ophthalmologist in Matsu before our study, and it revealed the prevalence of diabetic retinopathy was relatively high among self reported diabetics. Diabetics with long-term duration or self ignorance of unknown duration and those in more rural islets, Chukuang/Tungyin, were in risk of vision-threatening diabetic retinopathy. It remains an important issue of blindness prevention.

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