

Screening for diabetic retinopathy ... The Scottish Experience

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Objective:

The objective of this research is to estimate the initial levels of diabetic retinopathy, the net effect for both referral and treatment of diabetic retinopathy and maculopathy and to determine the rates of co-existing pathology.

Methods:

We audited two years of a diabetic screening programme compatible with national implementation guidelines. Patients were subjected to a two field non mydriatic digital photography system, with a subsequent three tier screening protocol. 2360 patients were rescreened and graded and clinical referral patients were assessed to determine outcome and the impact on ophthalmological services from the programme.

Results:

The referral rate of sight threatening eye disease from the programme was low with a maculopathy referral rate of 4%. 62 patients (2.63%) were referred to clinical 18 patients received laser treatment. Service provision was 155 clinical appointments over the two year period, with a referral rate of 27.4% back to the programme.

Conclusion:

This diabetic programme achieves its objective with moderate work load implications. There is a need for a more structured database system and quality assurance mechanisms.

