Commentary
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Occurrence of Age-related Retinopathy in the United States

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Description

The major cause of blindness in adults of European descent over the age of 65 is Ge-related Macular DEGENERATION. While separate studies have produced estimates of both early AMD and more severe stages of the illness, the numbers of people diagnosed with AMD and those in the oldest age categories are typically tiny, resulting in figures that are rather unstable. Recent research has shown that high-dose vitamin supplementation7 can minimise the risk of vision loss in people with AMD, and that laser photocoagulation and photodynamic treatment can diminish vision loss in people with neovascular types of the disease [1].

However, for those with geographic atrophy and most people with NV AMD, the decrease in vision loss utilising these therapies is minimal. To establish the expected value of existing and future medicines, policymakers need accurate estimates of illness prevalence. This study aimed to better understand the incidence of intermediate and advanced AMD in the US by combining data from numerous population-based studies completed over the previous two decades and extrapolating prevalence rates to the whole US population. Furthermore, we calculated the projected future growth in AMD.

We concentrated on collecting precise estimations of the prevalence of NV AMD, GA, and big drusen. We chose to look at large drusen as a manifestation of intermediate AMD because of the large overlap of pigmentary changes with large drusen, data showing that large drusen are associated with a nearly 6% risk of developing advanced AMD in the involved eye over 5 years, and because it had been measured in all populations.

As a result, the following are the definitions employed in this study: The International ARM Study Group defines age-related macular degeneration as AMD, and it is divided into two groups12: those with GA, which is a discrete area of retinal depigmentation at least 175 m in diameter with a sharp border and visible choroidal vessels in the absence of NV AMD in the same eye; and those with NV AMD, which is serous or hemorrhagic detachment of either the retinal pigment epithelium or sensory retina.

Any AMD indicates the existence of GA or NV AMD in one or both eyes. If either eye exhibited GA, the subject was categorised as having GA. Similarly, if either eye had NV, participants were classed as having NV AMD, hence some people were counted in both categories of AMD. As a result, predictions for any AMD will be lower than the sum of NV AMD and GA estimations. Large drusen were described as those with a diameter of 125 m or more in the macula of one or both eyes.

The studies supplying data required to be population-based, offer data on the conditions being researched, and employ a standard photographic grading method to determine the prevalence of AMD and drusen in order to be included in this study. All known trials that met these criteria were included since these investigations were done when no preventative therapies for AMD were available. Baltimore Eye Survey (Baltimore, Md.) is one of them. Barbados Eye Study, Barbados, West Indies; Beaver Dam Eye Study, Beaver Dam; Blue Mountains Eye Study, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. Rotterdam Study, Netherlands Melbourne Vision Impairment Project and Salisbury Eye Evaluation Project, both based in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia [2].

In the Baltimore Eye Survey, 5308 black and white people were included, with 19% having no gradable pictures for AMD. The Barbados Eye Study involved 4314 black people, 17% of whom had no pictures that could be used to diagnose AMD. In the Beaver Dam Eye Study, 4926 people were registered, with 2% of them having no gradable pictures for AMD. In the Blue Mountains Eye Study, 3654 white people were enrolled, with 2% having no gradable pictures for AMD. 6872 people visited the Rotterdam Study centre, with 0.9 percent of them having no gradable pictures for AMD. The Salisbury Eye Evaluation Project enrolled 65% of those who were qualified, with only 2% having no gradable pictures. Out of 4744 people, 4345 were registered in the Melbourne Vision Impairment Project [3-5].

Conflict of Interest

None.

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