

Depression and severity of glaucoma among older adults in urban and suburban areas

ABSTRACT

Précis:

Depression increases with severity of visual field defect in older adults with primary open-angle glaucoma (POAG).

Purpose:

This study aimed to determine the prevalence of depression among patients with POAG and examine the relationship between depression and the severity of POAG in older adults.

Materials and Methods:

Three hundred and sixty patients with POAG aged 60 years or above were recruited from 2 tertiary centers located in an urban and suburban area. The participants were stratified according to the severity of their glaucoma based on the scores from the modified Advanced Glaucoma Intervention Study (AGIS) to mild, moderate, severe, and end stage. Face-to-face interviews were performed using the Malay Version Geriatric Depression Scale 14 (mGDS-14) questionnaire. Depression is diagnosed when the score is ≥ 8 . One-way analysis of variance was used to compare the subscores between the groups. Multifactorial analysis of variance was also applied with relevant confounding factors.

Results:

Depression was detected in 16% of older adults with POAG; a higher percentage of depression was seen in those with end stage disease. There was a significant increase in the mean score of mGDS-14 according to the severity of POAG. There was evidence of an association between depression and severity of visual field defect ($P < 0.001$). There was a significant difference in mGDS-14 score between the pairing of severity of POAG [mild-severe ($P = 0.003$), mild-end stage ($P < 0.001$), moderate-severe ($P < 0.001$), and moderate-end stage ($P < 0.001$)] after adjustment to living conditions, systemic disease, and visual acuity.