Does Knowledge of the Risk Factors of Glaucoma Impact Adherence in Patients of African Descent?

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BACKGROUND

- Glaucoma is commonly known as the deterioration of the optic nerve.
- Approximately 3 million Americans suffer from glaucoma.
- Primary open-angle glaucoma (POAG) is the most common form of glaucoma in the US.1
- People of African descent (AD) are disproportionately affected by POAG.
- Mainly age group of over 50.1
- Leading cause of irreversible blindness.2

METHODS

- The first line of treatment for POAG is the daily use of eye drops.
- Adherence to this regime is known to be challenging for patients.
- We hypothesized that knowledge of the risk factors of glaucoma would result in better adherence.

- 29 patients with POAG were included in the study.
- Average age of 60.38 ± 9.93 years
- Self-identified as African descent (AD)

- Medical Event Monitoring System (MEMS) bottles were used to measure adherence.
- To access knowledge about RF, we used the following question from the 9-item Brief Illness Perception questionnaire: “Please list in rank-order the three important factors that you believe caused your illness.”

RESULTS

- Our results suggest that knowledge of the risk factors (RF) of glaucoma does not impact adherence.
- Future studies will investigate whether educating patients can improve adherence.

PURPOSE

- To determine whether knowledge of the risk factors (RF) associated with glaucoma translates into better adherence.

CONCLUSIONS

- Our results suggest that knowledge of the risk factors (RF) of glaucoma does not impact adherence.
- Future studies will investigate whether educating patients can improve adherence.

References:
1The Glaucoma Foundation, 2The National Institute of Health, 3American Glaucoma Society, 4American Academy of Ophthalmology, 5Orit Cohen Castel, Lital Keinan-Boker, Orna Geyer, Uzi Milman, and Khaled Karkabi. Factors associated with adherence to glaucoma pharmacotherapy in the primary care setting. Author Disclosure: None for all authors. Grant Support: Prevent Blindness America (LR), RUPUI MURI Award (LR), Unrestricted Grant from Research to Prevent Blindness (LR)

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