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Under The Patronage of his Excellency Dr Yousef Goussous

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Factors Related to Diabetic Retinopathy Patients' Satisfaction toward services at Al-Karak Governmental Teaching Hospital

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Abstract

Background: WHO (2015) reported that diabetic retinopathy (DR) is the fifth leading cause of blindness and is increasing rapidly worldwide. Unfortunately, DR patients are under-utilizing ophthalmic services, which may be related to their satisfaction levels with services. Most previous DR patients' satisfaction studies were evaluating DR patient satisfaction toward tele-ophthalmology services. Patient satisfaction is an important tool to assess the quality of healthcare services delivered.

Objective: To assess the satisfaction levels toward services among the DR patients and to determine the sociodemographic and clinical factors that are related to these satisfaction levels.

Method: A cross-sectional study was conducted involving 173 DR patients, attending the Eye Clinic at Al-Karak Governmental Hospital (KGH). Patients were interviewed face to face, using a validated and reliable version of the Patient Satisfaction Questionnaire (PSQ-III). It includes seven main domains: general satisfaction, technical quality, communication, interpersonal aspects, financial aspects, time spent with the doctor, and access/ availability/ convenience. The descriptive and inferential statistics were carried out, using SPSS V.25, at P<0.05.

Results: The overall mean for satisfaction was 23.58/35±2.74 (67.14%), which is considered of moderate level. Patients reported the interpersonal aspects as the highest satisfaction $(3.82/5 \pm 0.43)$ domain and the general satisfaction domain as the lowest $(2.50/5 \pm 0.75)$. Satisfaction toward services was significantly higher among females $(23.96/35\pm2.56)$ and normotensive $(23.99/35\pm2.34)$ patients. Using multivariate regression, the significant predictors for better satisfaction were; females, utilizing public transportation, higher household income (β = 0.01, P= 0.03) higher educational attainment (β = -0.32, P= 0.03), and being normotensive (β = 0.99, P= 0.03). On the other hand, DR stage severity, presence of diabetic macular edema, sugar control, the best-corrected-visual-acuity, and whether treated or not in the right or left eyes were related non-significantly to satisfaction levels.

Conclusion: DR patients are highly satisfied with the attitude of their treating ophthalmologists. Therefore, there is a pressing need to address and promote other areas with lower levels of satisfaction such as increasing the opportunity for doctors to listen carefully to their patients.

Keywords: Diabetic retinopathy, Satisfaction toward healthcare services, Diabetic macular edema, socio-demographic, medical factors, Jordan.

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Biography

I am an optometrist currently working at the Eye Clinic at KGH, and studying master's of Public Health Management at Mutah University. I was raised in Dubai, U.A.E., participated in different national, regional, and global competitions in different fields- Literature, Geography, Science, etc. - and won many prizes. I graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Optometry from Jordan University of Science and Technology in 2016. I have been enrolled in training programs at The Eye Departments in the Royal Medical Services and Al-Bashier Hospitals-The largest two healthcare institutions in Jordan-. I participated in a course for clinical optometrists supervised by the German Jordanian University. I have five years of experience in an optical center providing the primary eyecare for the local community at Al-Karak. Before starting my current job at KGH, I have an experience as a researcher, working with the ophthalmic staff and policymakers to enhance services provided for the DR patients.