

Prevalence of cataract surgery in the hospitalized patients aged 30 years and older in Urmia, Iran

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Cataract is commonly a disease of middle-age and geriatric age and the main factor in low/is one of the major cause for diminished or poor vision and the commonest preventable cause of preventable blindness worldwide. This study was undertaken to determine the prevalence of cataract surgery and awareness of cataract subjects residing in this district of Urmia, Iran. A cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted from April 2004 to March 2008. The demographic and epidemiologic information of patients who are about underwent cataract surgery on patients (n=962) were collected extracted from the medical data banks and records. Data was collected and analyzed. Among the 962 cases, there were 575men and 387 women with a mean age of 78.5(SD=12.49). Cataract surgery was done for the first time for 90% of them. The majority of the patients (22.98%) were between 60-70 years old bracket. Most of the patients (33.06%) were hospitalized in 2005. The duration of hospitalization was 2-3 day in 45.3%. The results of this study show that the increase in the prevalence of the cataract is relatively high with the aging of the population highlights which needs to plan appropriate medical services and public health interventions for primary and secondary prevention.

Key words: Cataract, cataract surgery, prevalence, Iran.

INTRODUCTION

Cataract is the major cause of blindness worldwide. It is estimated that 41.8% of all global blindness is caused by cataract (Thapa et al., 2011) and accounting for 47.8% of all cases of impaired visual with sign of slight to complete opacity and obstructing the passage of light with a clouding that develops in the crystalline lens or in its envelope causing myopia, Its progress is slow that causes vision loss and potentially blindness (Steinberg EP et al., 1993).

World Health Organization has estimated the prevalence of blindness among the people over fifty years in South East Asia as 3.4%(Pascolini D et al., 2004) nevertheless the World Health Organization estimates that more than 82% of all blindness occurs in

individuals aged 50 and older which represents about 18 million people. Cataract accounts for 47.8% of the world's roughly 37 million blind individuals from different social, physical, and financial perspectives (McCarty CA & HR., 2002). It is also a disease that is a target of epidemiologic research (Steinberg et al., 1993). Many studies have been conducted in various countries to estimate the prevalence of its complications such as blindness and low vision in diverse populations (McCarty & Taylor, 2002; DeBlack, 2003).

It is known that different types of cataract differ significantly to cause visual disability and require surgery. It reduces quality of life and decreases in functional abilities resulting from low vision (Ellwein & Urato, 2002).