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Service (sector)
Cornea and External Disease

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Ocular Findings in the Diabetic Japanese-Brazilian Population

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Purpose: The purpose of this study is to evaluate the prevalence of ocular pathologies in the diabetic Japanese-Brazilian population.

Methods: The Largest Japanese migrant population outside Japan Lives in Brazil. During Nov-1999 to Oct-2000, 1233 patients aged 30-79 years were submitted to clinical examination and laboratorial procedures including fasting glucose test and 75g oral glucose tolerance test. Diabetic (DM2) patients (WHO criteria 1999) were recruit to ophthalmologic examination. Until this moment 259 patients were examined.

Results: The prevalence of DM2 was 35.5%, impaired fasting glucose and/or impaired glucose tolerance was 43.1%. In the diabetic populations 75% had visual acuity of 20/30 or better, Cataract was observed in 47.5%. Women had more cortical cataract ($p < 0.001$). Pterygium was found in 17.1% and 1.5% presented punctuate Keratitis. The prevalence of diabetic retinopathy (DR) was 8.1%. Relation between DR and high levels of glycosylated hemoglobin, fasting glucose and diabetes duration were observed ($p < 0.001$).

Conclusion: Different ocular pathologies was found in this group. Diabetic retinopathy is the most important ocular disease in diabetes. In our study a low prevalence of retinopathy was found in spite of the high prevalence of diabetes. Early diagnosis and management are important to prevent the development of ocular pathologies and visual impairment.