

An evaluation of a surveillance clinic with two fields digital photography for those who present with early signs of referable diabetic maculopathy over a 4 year follow up period.

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#### Aims

The NHS Diabetic Eye Screening Programme states that from April 2013 all programmes should provide a virtual photographic clinic in order to reduce the number of unnecessary referrals into the Hospital Eye Service (HES). This study aimed to evaluate the surveillance clinic pathway as a means to manage patients with signs of early referable diabetic maculopathy (M1) and to investigate whether patients develop M1 in the fellow eye.

#### Methods

A 4 year retrospective analysis of 455 patients within the Birmingham, Solihull and Black Country Screening Programme who presented with M1 at Diabetic Eye Screening in 2008. All patients were subsequently placed into a surveillance clinic at Heartlands Hospital.

#### Results

The mean age of patients who presented with M1 was 60 years (18-87). At the end of the 4 year follow up 280 (61.5%) patients were put back to annual recall (AR), 141 (30.9%) were referred into HES, 1 (0.2%) patient is still being monitored and 33 (7.25%) patients did not attend (DNA) their appointment(s)/deceased/out of area. The mean number of surveillance clinic visits for patients who were deemed safe for AR was 1.40 and the mean for number of visits for patients accepted into HES was 1.71. Out of the 455 patients, 366 presented with M1 in only one eye. Of these, 116 (32%) developed early signs of referable maculopathy in the fellow eye.

#### Conclusion

Surveillance clinics are an effective tool in managing patients with maculopathy and reduce unnecessary referrals into HES, saving on cost and resources to the NHS.