

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**CORNEAL ASTIGMATISM AMONG FIRST YEAR  
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS OF UITM  
SELANGOR, PUNCAK ALAM CAMPUS**

**NURULWAHIDA BINTI JASMAN**

**BACHELOR OF OPTOMETRY (HONS)  
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

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## AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this thesis was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the results of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This thesis has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any degree or qualification.

I, hereby, acknowledge that I have been supplied with the Academic Rules and Regulations for Undergraduate, Universiti Teknologi MARA, regulating the conduct of my study and research.

Name of student : Nurulwahida Binti Jasman  
Student I.D. : 2012818746  
Program : Bachelor of Optometry (Hons)-HS226  
Faculty : Health Science  
Thesis Title : Corneal Astigmatism among First Year Undergraduate Students of UiTM Selangor, Puncak Alam Campus.

Student's signature :  .....

Date : 18 July 2016

## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Previous studies stated that 13 % of the refractive error of human eye comes from astigmatism and the origin of the astigmatism was mostly from the cornea and is known as corneal astigmatism. Based on previous studies, there were low amount of astigmatism reported among adults, the most commonly was WTR astigmatism. However, prevalence of astigmatism was higher among Asian as compared to Caucasian subjects. Previous studies reported that there were association between corneal astigmatism and refractive astigmatism. However, limited study done in Malaysia on corneal astigmatism especially among young Malay adults. **Purpose:** This study aims to identify corneal astigmatism including its direction and its relationship with refractive astigmatism among first year undergraduate students of UiTM Selangor, Puncak Alam Campus. **Method:** First year university students of UiTM Selangor, Puncak Alam campus were invited to participate in the study. In this study, corneal astigmatism was measured by using Nidek Magellan Mapper SN MM 2062 2004/5 with the following standard optometric procedure; A drop of saline solution was instilled into the inferior fornix in order to maintain adequate tears. Then, proper fixation was ensured as the subjects were asked to see the central green light in the instrument. Three consecutive readings were taken and average readings were recorded for each eye. **Result:** The mean corneal astigmatism of the first year undergraduate students of UiTM Selangor, Puncak Alam campus for the right and left eyes were  $1.01 \pm 0.58\text{DC}$ , and  $1.07 \pm 0.63\text{DC}$  respectively. Among them, 46% was found to have astigmatism greater than 1.00DC. The direction of corneal astigmatism was predominantly with-the-rule (WTR) astigmatism, (79%). Besides, there was good correlation between corneal astigmatism and refractive astigmatism as  $r = 0.75$  with  $p=0.0005$ . **Conclusion:** Forty six percent of the first year students has astigmatism more than 1.00DC and 79% was WTR astigmatism. The high percentage of astigmatism had importance implications for future service planning as it may be associated with lazy eye and poor quality of life.

Keywords: Corneal astigmatism, university students, young adults

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