

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**AWARENESS AMONG DIABETIC PATIENT
ON OCULAR COMPLICATION**

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BACHELOR OF OPTOMETRY (HONS)

JULY 2015

AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONTENT	PAGES
AUTHOR’S DECLARATION	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iv
LIST OF TABLES	vii
LIST OF FIGURES	viii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	ix
ABSTRACT	x
ABSTRAK	xi
 CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	 1
1.1 Diabetes Mellitus	1
1.2 Prevalence of Diabetes Mellitus	1
1.3 Types of Diabetes	3
1.4 Ocular Complication	4
1.5 Implication of lack of knowledge and awareness	5
1.6 Problem Statement	6
1.7 Study Objectives	7
1.7.1 General Objective	7
1.7.2 Specific Objective	7
1.8 Study Hypothesis	7
 CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW	 8
2.1 Diabetes Mellitus	8
2.1.1 Types of Diabetes	8

2.1.2	Prevalence of Diabetes Melitus	9
2.2	Awareness on Ocular Complication Due to Diabetes Mellitus	11
2.3	Implication of Lack of Knowledge	13
CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY		16
3.1	Study Design	16
3.2	Study Location	16
3.3	Subject	16
3.3.1	Inclusion Criteria	17
3.3.2	Exclusion Criteria	17
3.4	Research Instruments	17
3.5	Research Procedures	18
3.6	Ethics Approval	19
3.7	Data Analysis	19
CHAPTER 4 RESULTS		20
4.1	Demographic Characteristics	20
4.2	Awareness Of Diabetes Mellitus And Its Complication	21
4.3	Awareness Of Ocular Complication	21
4.4	Appropriate Eye Care Seeking Behaviour	23
CHAPTER 5 DISCUSSION		25
5.1	Study Limitation	30
5.2	Study Contribution	31

ABSTRACT

Purpose: Diabetes mellitus is a significant cause of visual impairment, hence adequate knowledge on this condition and its ocular complications is of immense importance to diabetic patients. It affects virtually all ocular structures and can lead to blindness. This study was conducted to find out the knowledge and awareness of ocular complications among diabetic patients within Selangor. **Methods:** Sixty-three subjects were enrolled in this study. After signing the consent form, each of the subjects completed the questionnaires. The first set of questionnaire was set to obtain demographic data and inclusion criteria for the subject. The second set was set to investigate the awareness and knowledge of ocular complication among diabetic patients. **Results:** Majority of subjects were between 41 years to 50 years of age. Of forty-nine (77.8%) who were aware that eyesight function can be impaired by diabetes, more than half (68.3%) did not know the part of the eye that can be affected. Patient who have been diabetic below 10 years are more aware that diabetes can affect the eye than those with diabetic 10 years and above (63.7% vs 36.3% $p = 0.001$). Awareness of diabetic complications is better in those with tertiary education than others. **Conclusion:** We conclude that those who have been diabetic for 5-10 years are more aware of ocular complications of diabetes mellitus. This might be due to the sources of knowledge that can be easily accessed through reading in the internet and magazine. However, although the awareness of ocular complication is high, the level of knowledge is low. Health practitioners especially optometrist need to intensify health education through media, regular health talks in clinics to increase knowledge and increase health seeking behaviours of diabetics.

Keywords: Awareness, knowledge, ocular complication, diabetes mellitus, diabetic retinopathy.