The study included 282 enrolled patients from previous information captured from patient and electronic medical records included: Race/ethnicity, age, gender, marital status, medications, and glaucoma diagnoses. A univariate and multivariate analyses was used to assess the relationship between glaucoma diagnosis, race/ethnicity, gender, age, and overall quality of life. As suggested by the literature a score for the GDS-15 was chosen as a significant value indicating that the patient may have a severe form of depression and would be referred by the patient navigator.

Methods

- The study included 282 enrolled patients from previous community sites that were used in a previous CDC-funded study, and from Wills Eye Hospital.
- Each patient underwent a baseline assessment utilizing the National Eye Institute (NEI) Visual Function Questionnaire (VFQ) and Geriatric Depression Scale (GDS) to measure quality of life.
- Information captured from patient, and electronic medical records included: Race/ethnicity, age, gender, marital status, medications, and glaucoma diagnoses.
- A univariate and multivariate analyses was used to assess the relationship between glaucoma diagnosis, race/ethnicity, gender, age, and overall quality of life.
- As suggested by the literature a score for the GDS-15 was chosen as a significant value indicating that the patient may have a severe form of depression and would be referred by the patient navigator.

Results

Patients aged 50 years and over were examined and interviewed at the community and main sites and were diagnosed with some form of glaucoma. Overall, 208 (73.8%) accounted for Black or African American. Females 187 (66.3) and males 95 (33.7) were accounted for in the study population. A review of quality of life scores among the patients was examined utilizing the NEI-VFQ-25 and GDS-15. From the NEI-VFQ-25, 196 (69.5%) patients had subscale scores in 76-100 range, indicating a high QoL. In the GDS-10,198 (87.2%) had an overall score in the 0-4 range, indicating no depression. Across all the sites, only 2 people were screened positive on the GDS-15 for being suspected clinically depressed. These individuals were referred to a social worker. Glaucoma patients that were female were also noted as having lower QoL than males (p<0.1). Type of glaucoma diagnosis has also indicated that patients with some form of glaucoma are more likely to have overall poorer QoL (p<0.001).

Conclusions

The findings from this study emphasize the need to continue early detection and treatment of glaucoma in order to maintain a high QoL among high-risk populations in Philadelphia. Many of the patients in this study indicated higher QoL and were diagnosed early which was representative in their overall composite score from the baseline assessment. Given that there were patients whose scores were indicative of mild and severe depression were associated with glaucoma and later stages of the disease. The later stages lead to an individual to experience vision-loss and development of clinical depression. This study was able to determine and support the literature on how there is a relationship between the severity of glaucoma and overall QoL.