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Factors Affecting Intraocular Pressure in Normal Subjects and Glaucoma Patients: Evidence from Abakaliki

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Background: Intraocular pressure (IOP) is affected by factors like age, gender, body mass index (BMI), and blood pressure among others.^{1,2} Studies have investigated the relationship between IOP and age, gender, BMI, and refractive error.³⁻⁵ There has been conflicting results as some studies have reported a correlation between IOP and age, gender, BMI, and refractive error^{3,5} while results from other studies found no such association.^{4,6} Therefore, the aim of this study was to determine the relationship between IOP and age, gender, body mass index and refractive status in the primary open angle glaucoma (POAG) and non-glaucomatous eyes.

Patients and Methods: A case-controlled study involving consecutive newly diagnosed POAG and non-glaucomatous patients conducted in the eye clinic of Alex Ekwueme Federal University Teaching Hospital, Abakaliki. Demographic data included age, gender, and occupation. Height and weight were measured using a Standing Scale with calibrated metal rule. BMI was calculated as Weight (kg) / [Height(m)]². IOP was measured with Perkins hand-held applanation tonometer. Correlation and regression analysis was used to determine the relationship between IOP and age, gender, BMI and refractive status.

Results: There was a direct relationship between age and IOP in non-glaucomatous subjects (Figure 1) which was statistically significant (p < 0.001; r = 0.8). Intraocular pressure also increased with increasing age in POAG (Figure 2) but this was not statistically significant (p = 0.18; r = 0.3). There was no statistically significant difference between mean IOP in males and females among both POAG and non-glaucoma patients, with p = 0.72 and p = 0.50 respectively. BMI had a linear relationship with intraocular pressure which was statistically significant in POAG (p = 0.01; r value = 0.3) but showed no such relationship in nonglaucomatous patients (p = 0.38; r value = 0.1). The relationship between mean IOP and refractive status was not statistically significant in non-glaucomatous (p = 0.19; r = 0.2) and POAG patients (p = 0.5; r = 0.09) respectively. Conclusion: IOP has linear correlation with increasing age in both non-glaucomatous patients and POAG. A statistically significant relationship was found between IOP and BMI in POAG but not in non-glaucomatous eyes. There was no relationship between either the gender or refractive status and IOP in nonglaucoma and POAG subjects respectively.

Keywords: *IOP*, *Age*, *Gender*, *BMI*, *Refractive error*

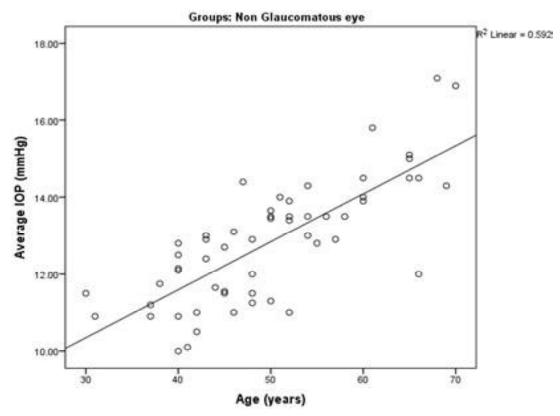


Figure 1: Mean IOP with age in years in non-glaucoma subjects

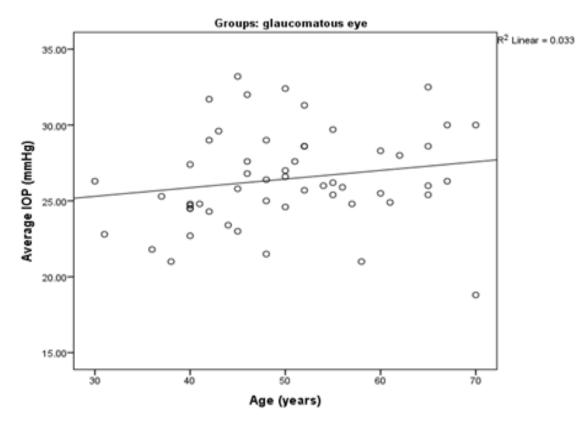


Figure 2: Mean IOP with age in years in POAG subjects

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Minimally Invasive Glaucoma Surgery (MIGS): Economically Viable in Sub-Saharan Africa

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