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## Prevalence, clinical features and associated factors of keratoconus patients attending ophthalmology department, King Khalid Hospital, Hail city, Saudi Arabia

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**Introduction:** Keratoconus is a non-inflammatory, progressive and usually bilateral corneal disorder that leads to considerable alterations in the shape, thickness and biomechanical properties of the cornea. The incidence varies globally depending upon the geographic location, the ethnic groups and diagnostic criteria used.

**Methods:** Retrospective study, review the prevalence, demographic features and associated factors of the outpatients who have been diagnosed as keratoconus through the years 2010-2014.

**Results:** Forty-Four eyes reviewed, the prevalence of keratoconus among ophthalmology department was 5-6 per 12,000 patients each year. The greatest age group affected was 20-29 years old (60.8%), slightly common in female compared to male (52.2%) with majority affected in both eyes (78.3%). The commonest presenting symptom was painless progressive decrease of vision (95.65%), itching (56.21%) and intolerance lenses (39.13%). Clinical profile started by visual acuity the greatest had 6/30 meter (29.3%) then count finger (14.9%), for K-reading mostly they had severe K-reading >52 (56.%), intraocular pressure was within normal (95.2%); high myopia >6.00 for around half of the patients (41.7%) with absolute astigmatism in all patients. Slit Lamb examination the commonest found cunining (61%) then scaring of cornea (24.4%) and one case with acute bilateral hydro-drop.

**Discussion:** To our knowledge, the current study is the first study of keratoconus in northern region of Saudi Arabia. Demographic features were parallel to the pervious published studies of keratoconus. Moreover in this study was found a significant relationship between increasing in the age and the severity of the presenting features of keratoconus.

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## Screening of glaucoma in Kazakhstan, main issues

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According to official statistics, in Kazakhstan there were registered 35,755 patients with glaucoma in 2009 (before the introduction of screening programs), including with 7360 newly diagnosed pathology. The overall incidence of glaucoma was 73.6 per 100 thousand populations, while the incidence among the urban population was 2 times higher than in rural. In 45% of cases they were diagnosed in the far-advanced stage of glaucoma. Due to Glaucoma Screening Program in Kazakhstan in 2011-2013 there were 5,421,928 persons who were examined. In the dynamics of data (2011-2013) by screening was found 1.2%, 0.9% and 0.74% of those with elevated IOP; there was a trend of gradual reduction of ocular hypertension detection. In Kazakhstan during the screening of the population aged 40 years and older there were 15,776 patients identified with glaucoma for 3 years. The level of over diagnosis in screening is also reduced from 6.2 in 2011, 3.8 in 2012 to 2.4 in 2013. The level of over diagnosis in rural areas remains high (3.3 versus 1.9 in cities), which is probably due to a lower level of professionalism of medical staff.

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