



# Causes and Clinical Impact of Loss to Follow-Up in Patients with Proliferative Diabetic Retinopathy

Hazem Abdelmotaal, Walid Ibrahim, Mohamed Sharaf, Khaled Abdelazeem

## Abstract:

**Purpose:** This study determined the clinical impact and causes of loss to follow-up (LTFU) from the patients' perspective in individuals with proliferative diabetic retinopathy (PDR) who received panretinal photocoagulation (PRP) and/or intravitreal injections (IVIs) of anti-vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF). **Methods:** This prospective cohort study included 467 patients with PDR who received PRP and/or IVIs of anti-VEGF between May 2013 and June 2018. LTFU was defined as missing any follow-up visit for any interval exceeding 6 months, provided that patients eventually resumed care. **Main outcome measures** include rates and causes of LTFU. **Results:** A total of 391 patients (83.7%) were followed, and 76 patients (16.3%) were LTFU over the study period. Rates of LTFU decreased with age ( $P = 0.005$ ). Questionnaire analysis conducted for patients LTFU showed a significant positive correlation between best corrected visual activity (BCVA) loss and patient's lack of trust and satisfaction with treatment [ $r_s = 0.458$ ,  $P$

## Keywords:

loss to follow-up, proliferative diabetic retinopathy, diabetic retinopathy

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