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Philadelphia Telemedicine Glaucoma Detection and Follow-up Study: Methods and Screening Results

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1 ABSTRACT

- 2 **Purpose:** To describe methodology and screening results from the Philadelphia
- 3 Telemedicine Glaucoma Detection and Follow-up Study.
- 4 **Design:** Screening program results for a prospective, randomized clinical trial.
- 5 Materials and Methods: Individuals were recruited who were African-American,
- 6 Hispanic/Latino, or Asian over age 40 years; Caucasian individuals over age 65 years;
- 7 any ethnicity over age 40 years with a family history of glaucoma or diabetes. Primary
- 8 care offices and Federally Qualified Health Centers were used for telemedicine (Visit 1).
- 9 Two posterior fundus photographs and 1 anterior segment photograph were captured
- 10 per eye in each participant, using a non-mydriatic, auto-focus, hand-held fundus camera
- 11 (Volk Optical, Mentor, Ohio, USA). Medical and ocular history, family history of
- 12 glaucoma, visual acuity, and intraocular pressure measurements using the
- 13 ICarerebound tonometer (ICare, Helsinki, Finland) were obtained. Images were read
- 14 remotely by a trained retina reader and a glaucoma specialist.
- 15 **Results:** From 4/1/15, to 2/6/17, 906 individuals consented and attended Visit 1. Of
- these, 553 participants were female (61.0%) and 550 were African American (60.7%),
- with a mean age of 58.7 years. A total of 532 (58.7%) participants had diabetes, and
- 18 616 (68%) had a history of hypertension. During Visit 1, 356 (39.3%) participants were
- 19 graded with a normal image. Using image data from the worse eye, 333 (36.8%) were
- abnormal and 155 (17.1%) were unreadable. A total of 258 (28.5%) had a suspicious
- nerve; 62 (6.8%) had ocular hypertension, 102 (11.3%) had diabetic retinopathy; and 68
- 22 (7.5%) had other retinal abnormalities.
- 23 **Conclusion:** An integrated telemedicine screening intervention in primary care offices
- 24 and Federally Qualified Health Centers detected high rate of suspicious optic nerves,
- 25 ocular hypertension, and retinal pathology.
- 26

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