DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING DR PROGRAMS: CHALLENGES TO SUCCESS

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Most people screened will not need treatment. Need to screen about 20 people to find one who needs laser.

Screening has to happen over and over again and has costs associated with it.

Treatment prevents vision loss, does not restore lost vision.
PREVALENCE OF VISION THREATENING RETINOPATHY AMONG DIABETICS

Barbados Eye Study BDES BMES Melbourne VIP Proyecto VER SAHS SLVDS WESDR Pooled SiMES

Prevalence, %
• Committed to the process

• Available personnel to either be trained or to do the work

• Staffing (including management)
IDENTIFYING THE POPULATION

- Need large numbers with diabetes to justify telemedicine
  - Eye hospitals?
  - Endocrine?

- Establishing routine screening is a challenge
• IT infrastructure

• Camera selection and purchase

• Training of personnel
• Graders...training, certification, re-assessment

• Retina faculty to re-check

• Repeat training as graders turnover
• Need to track the entire process

• $$$

• Many challenges here
• Screening and re-screening
• Treatments obtained
• Issues with obtaining treatment
• Purchase of laser

• Training of those providing treatment

• Availability of those providing treatment

• Cost!
OBSTACLES TO TRAINING

- English needed for many training programs
- Graders, Photographers, Doctors
- Local training requires companion head for laser, expensive, needs to be budgeted
• Partners are often enthusiastic but may not commit the resources necessary

• Managing these projects is a full-time job

• Personnel: can change over time, may not have control over hiring and firing

• Ideal protocols are frequently not followed
• Cost recovery sounds good, but is very hard to implement

• Tracking patients is difficult

• Transferring responsibility to the partner can lead to less focus on the program
COSTS AND BENEFITS

• Institutions see the day-to-day cost of personnel, equipment and space

• Downstream income from increased care is not recognized
MAJOR NEEDS

• Centralized training and certification process

• Inexpensive and simple tracking software

• Ideally a universal ID number to track patients

• Ways to generate revenue so programs can expand

• Low cost cameras
THANK YOU.

“Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of overcoming it.”
-Helen Keller