Dementia Associated with Open-angle Glaucoma

Previous epidemiologic studies on the association between open-angle glaucoma (OAG) and dementia showed inconsistent results, so researchers explored the association in a Taiwanese segment using a population-based data set.

Investigators retrieved data on subjects from the Longitudinal Health Insurance Database 2000. They identified 7,770 patients with a diagnosis of dementia, and matched 7,770 subjects (randomly extracted as controls) by sex and age. A logistic regression conditioned on age group, sex and index year assessed association of dementia with previously diagnosed OAG among sampled patients.

Of 15,540 patients, 1.70 percent had prior OAG, including 2.02 percent of the dementia group and 1.38 percent of the controls. After adjusting for patient socioeconomic characteristics and comorbid medical disorders, dementia patients were more likely to have had prior OAG than controls (odds ratio [OR]: 1.44, 95% confidence interval [CI]: 1.12–1.85; p<0.01). In addition, female dementia patients were more likely to have had prior OAG than controls (OR: 1.93, 95% CI:1.35–2.77; p<0.001), whereas no statistical difference in prior OAG between male dementia patients and controls was detected.

Female dementia patients were associated with a higher proportion of prior OAG than the controls.