

Inclusion criteria:

474 doctors were to include all patients on their practice list fulfilling the following criteria:

- 1) Diabetes mellitus diagnosed from 1 March 1989 to 28 February 1991 (71 doctors volunteered for a 1-year extension of this period)
- 2) Based on hyperglycaemic symptoms and/or raised blood glucose values measured in general practice, the diagnosis was established by a single whole blood or plasma glucose concentration $\geq 7.0/8.0$ mmol/l measured at a major laboratory
- 3) Age 40 years or older at diagnosis



Eligible patients (n = 1590)



Primary exclusions:

Severe somatic disease (n = 50)

Severe mental illness (n = 50)

Declined to consent (n = 62)

Secondary exclusions:

Diagnosis not confirmed (n = 47)

Patients included in main study (n = 1381)



Missing eye examination at diabetes diagnosis (n = 137)

Missing measurement of visual acuity (n = 3)

Patients with visual acuity measured at diabetes diagnosis and included in the present study (n = 1241)



Died before follow-up (n = 264)

Withdrew consent (n = 7)

Lost to follow-up (n = 4)

Missing eye examination at follow-up (n = 154)

Missing measurement of visual acuity (n = 5)

Patients with visual acuity measured at diagnosis and 6-year follow-up (n = 807)