

Improving Canadians' Awareness of Diabetic Eye Diseases and the Available Treatment Options

TORONTO, Oct 13, 2022 - [The International Federation on Ageing \(IFA\)](#) is proud to publish the report of the recent study "[Leaving No Patient Behind: A Six-Country Scan on Diabetic Eye Disease Educational Materials and Treatment Options](#)". This study was conducted to identify good practice as it relates to the development and dissemination of educational materials on diabetic eye diseases, as well as gaps and barriers that impede the uptake of these materials.

Vision is a critical component of intrinsic capacity, enabling people to be mobile, independent and to interact safely with their environment. Although Canadians are increasingly likely to experience vision loss related to their diabetes, there is concern that patients have little or no knowledge of the management and treatment options for diabetic eye conditions such as diabetic retinopathy and diabetic macular edema.

"Often, patient education related to diabetes focuses on preventing complications involving the heart and the kidneys. Patients may be unaware that vision loss is another major potential diabetes-related complication which poses a great threat to their independence" said Victoria Adepitan, Project Officer at the IFA responsible for executing the project.

It is crucial that Canadians at risk of diabetes-related vision health conditions are educated on their condition and are aware of the currently available treatment options. "Patients who are well informed about their disease are more likely to be active in their own care and fully aware of the importance of adhering to their individual treatment plan," said Adepitan about the rationale underpinning the study.

This study is instrumental in helping to generate knowledge that will improve patients' access to the information, ensure their comprehension and ultimately, improve health outcomes. The results of the study find that patient educational materials must be comprehensive and include all the available treatment options such as laser therapy, anti-VEGFs (e.g., Ranibizumab) and steroid implants (e.g., dexamethasone and fluocinolone), messages should be developed with consideration of at-risk populations, educational information should be provided by various sources and disseminated through multiple channels to maximize impact.

MEDIA CONTACT: Bruna Swerts, Director of Strategic Communications | bswerts@ifa.ngo

The [International Federation on Ageing \(IFA\)](#) is an international, non-governmental organization (NGO) with a unique membership base comprising government, NGOs, academics, industry, and individuals in over 80 countries. Nearly 50 years old, the IFA has become known as a leading and innovative organization that works across disciplines and sectors toward common goals that improve the lives of older people. Through the IFA's formal relations with the World Health Organization (WHO) and general consultative status at the United Nations and its agencies, the IFA is in the position to advocate directly with member states and contribute to and inform intergovernmental dialogue.