


Differential Distributions of Myopia Severity in Younger and Older Individuals with Rhegmatogenous Retinal Detachment

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Background

A recently published observation from the Netherlands showed an interesting incidence of rhegmatogenous retinal detachment (RRD) which mimicked the increasing prevalence of myopia.¹ This raised a further question whether it is conceivable to link between those two – increasing myopia causing increasing RRD – since individual data on severity of myopia and incident RRD are still lacking.² In line with this, we aimed to report the differential distribution of the severity of myopia in younger and older individuals with RRD.

Materials and Methods

This was a retrospective study reviewing medical records of all RRD cases attending and undergoing surgery at two major vitreo-retinal (VR) services (Jakarta Eye Hospitals and Clinics and Dr. Cipto Mangunkusumo National General Hospital) in Jakarta, the capital city of Indonesia, between January to December 2016. This study followed the tenets of the Declaration of Helsinki and had been approved by the Medical and Health Research Ethics Committee, Universitas Gadjah Mada. We included cases with ICD-10 diagnosis code of RRD (H 33.0) and at least 18 years of age. We excluded cases with clinical presentation of combined-mechanism retinal detachment (e.g., both tractional and rhegmatogenous RD), prior complicated cataract or refractive surgery in the fellow eye.

All information from the eligible medical records was retrieved. We ensured that all eligible cases had received posterior segment examination by a VR consultant using a 78 D condensing lens, three-mirror lens, and binocular indirect ophthalmoscope for both affected and fellow eye. Clinical diagnosis of RRD was confirmed by the presence of retinal detachment associated with retinal break. Myopia severity was determined by glasses prescription of the affected eye, refractive status of the fellow eye and further matched with the a-scan axial length of both eyes. We further categorized myopia severity as no myopia (<-0.50 D), low myopia (-0.50 to -3.00 D), moderate myopia (-3.0 to -6.00 D), and high myopia (≥-6.0 D). Our main analysis was distribution of myopia severity by age group using mean age as a cut-off: young adult (<48 years of age) and older adult (≥ 48 years of age).

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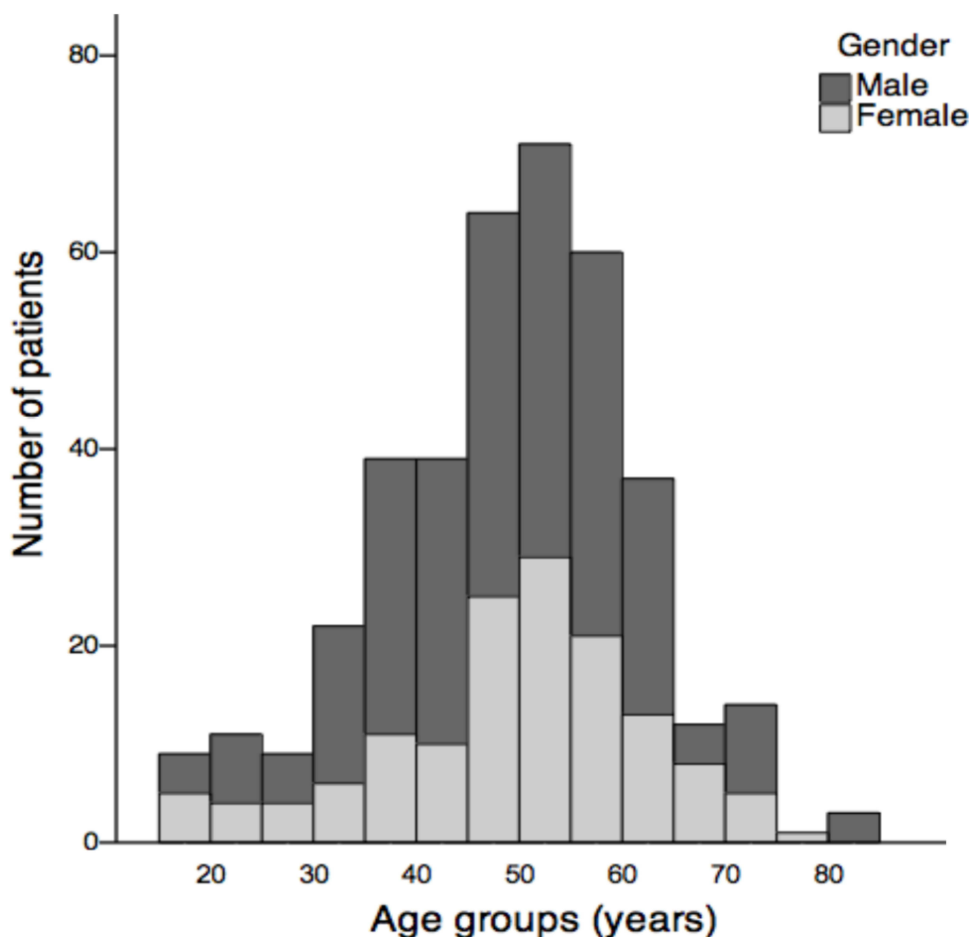


Figure 1 Age distribution of male and female patients.

Results

There were 391 patients included in the final analysis (193 [49.4%] younger and 198 [50.6%] older group). Mean age of participants was 48.4 years and more than 60% of the participants were male (63.7%). [Figure 1](#) shows the distribution of our participants by age group. The incidence of RRD peaked between 45 to 60 years old and the shape of distribution was identical between male and female. Older group had higher proportion of pseudophakia than younger group (29% vs 19%; $P = 0.02$), however both groups had similar proportion of history of ocular trauma and family history of RRD ([Supplementary Table](#)).

There was significant difference in myopia severity in younger compared with older age group. Younger adults were significantly more myopic than older adults (-6.38 D vs -3.87 D; $P < 0.01$) ([Supplementary Table](#)). In addition, [Figure 2](#) shows that the proportion of high myopia was significantly greater in younger group compared with older group (40.4% vs 13.6%; $P < 0.01$). Conversely, the

proportion of no (21.1%) and low myopia (23.3%) in younger group were significantly less than older group (40.4 and 34.3%, respectively). After exclusion of pseudophakic individuals, this pattern remained very similar ([Figure 2](#)).

Discussion

Our study showed that the proportion of high myopia in younger individuals with RRD was significantly greater than in older individuals even after exclusion of pseudophakic individuals. Findings from this study were very consistent with a previous study by Kim and associates from a Korean population showing that the majority of younger individuals with RRD had high myopia compared with older individuals, determined by axial length of >26 mm.³

Myopia has been strongly associated with RRD^{1,4} due to the fact that myopic individuals, particularly those with high myopia, are more likely to have a thinner retina⁵ and are prone to experience premature vitreous liquefactions causing

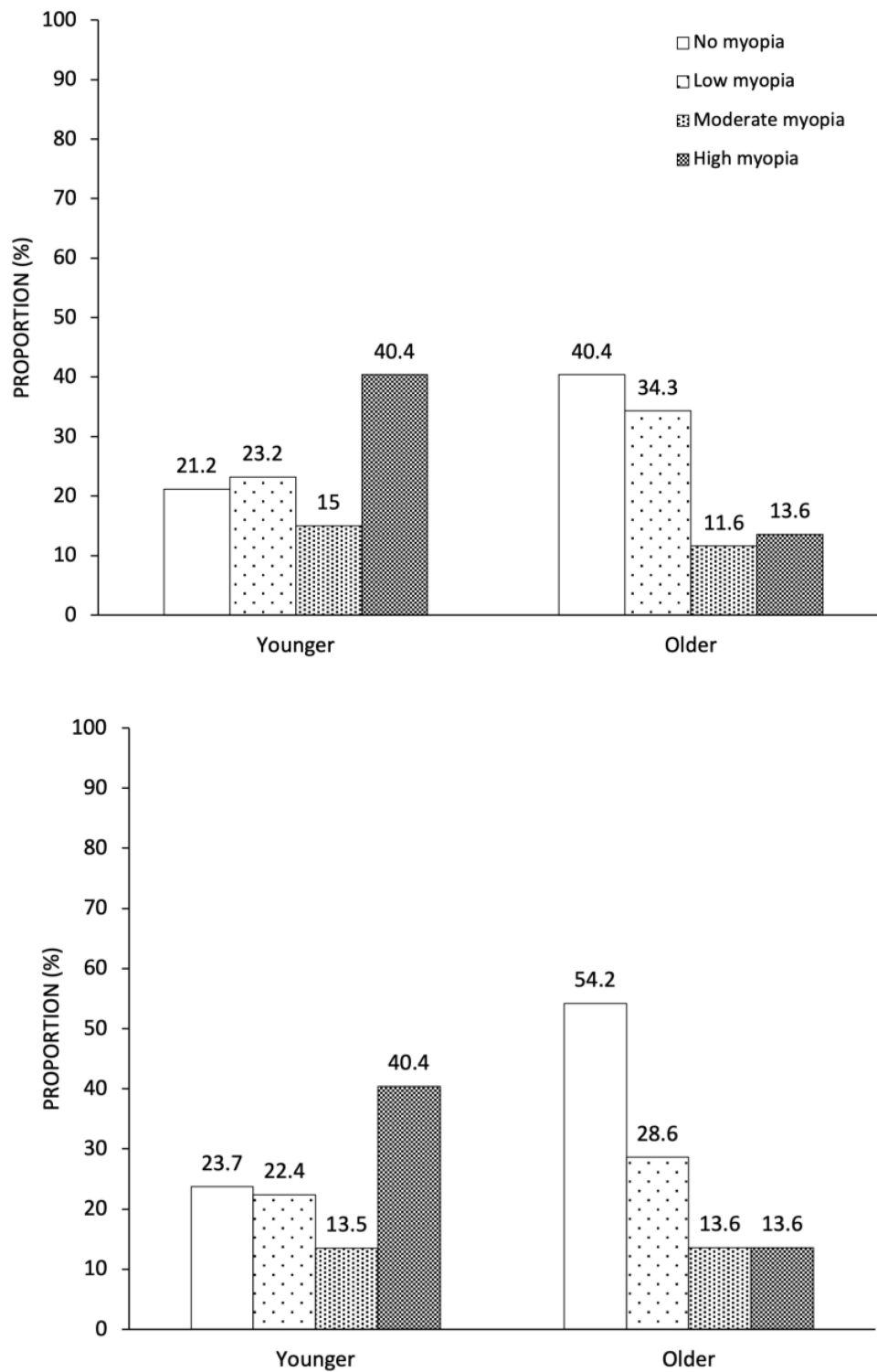


Figure 2 Proportion of refractive status in younger and older adults (Upper: overall; lower: phakic individuals).

posterior vitreous detachment.⁶ Taken together, those factors are key for the development of retinal tear and subsequent RRD.⁷

Our results should be interpreted cautiously, mainly due to some information biases related to the retrospective design used in this study. The measurement of refractive

error was based on previous glasses prescription of the affected eye. This was not the ideal assessment of refractive error; however, in the instance of RRD, measurement of refractive error using autorefractometer or partial coherence laser interferometry would have given inaccurate results. To minimize this bias, we matched patient's glasses prescription with the axial length measurement from a scan ultrasonography of the affected eye and measurement of refractive error of the fellow eye. Sensible values of those abovementioned measurements ensured that minimal bias was present.

In conclusion, younger individuals with RRD were more myopic than older ones in this study population. This finding strengthened the causality theory between myopia and RRD and supported previous observations that relate myopia and incident RRD. More importantly, this study also added to the existing literature that myopia could be more important risk factors of RRD in younger, but not in older individuals.

Human and Animal Rights

All procedures performed in studies involving human participants were in accordance with the ethical standards of the institutional and/or national research committee and with the 1975 Helsinki Declaration and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards.

Ethics Approval and Consent to Participate

Approval was obtained from the Medical and Health Research Ethics Committee, Universitas Gadjah Mada.

Medical record data de-identification was performed to ensure patients' anonymity.

Disclosure

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest in this work.

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