

Statement of Goals

This collaborative project will establish a diabetic retinopathy unit with fluorescein angiography and laser photocoagulation facilities in a local Oklahoma Native Indian community. ID2000 will assess the feasibility of the local delivery of state of the art ophthalmic care. National collaborative clinical trials have proven the benefit of photocoagulation in the treatment of proliferative diabetic retinopathy and clinically significant macular edema caused by diabetes. Nonetheless, as many as 94% of Native individuals with clinically significant macular edema have not been treated. Cultural bias, transportation difficulties and inadequate facilities and manpower are the major reasons for this deficit. By the year 2000, ID2000 will improve the management of diabetic retinopathy in the Native Indian people of Oklahoma to the level of care that is accepted as standard in the non Indian community. A second goal is the collection of prospective information regarding the prevalence and complications of diabetes in this population. Ultimately, the experience and information derived from this project will provide the foundation for additional diabetic retinopathy units in other local communities.

Project Plan

Significance & Preliminary Studies

Diabetes mellitus is a major health problem among Native Indians. Among the Arizona Pimas, almost 50% of people over 34 years have diabetes². In most Oklahoma tribes, the prevalence of this disease exceeds 20%³. Several studies have reported an overwhelming proportion (99.8%) of non insulin dependent diabetes (NIDDM) when compared with the insulin dependent (0.2%) form of the disease (IDDM) in full-